Palace defends Belmonte in bribery scandal

STORY ON PAGE A2

'Safest place on earth'

HAVANA—Need a break from terrorism worries in a place filled with sun, sand and salsa? Cuba may be just the ticket, says Philip Agee, an ex-CIA agent turned travel agent now living in this communist country.

SAFEST/ A14

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2001 ★ 56 PAGES 5 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 328 ₱15

IN *Saturday*SPECIAL

- More edge and pop-rock sound to M2M's new album
- Edu Manzano creates new TV persona
- Kevin Kline continues to act onstage between film projects

M2M

2 Pinoys held on fears they carry anthrax

TWO Filipinos on a Northwest flight from Manila via Tokyo were detained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation after landing in Seattle.

US Federal officials had received a tip on Wednesday that someone flying from the Philippines to Seattle "could pose a threat to public safety."

There were two Northwest airlines flights from Tokyo that were temporarily kept away from passenger terminals after landing in San Francisco and Seattle because of fears that someone aboard might be carrying anthrax.

Eventually, both Boeing 747s were cleared, and the passengers of both flights were allowed to clear customs, except for the two Filipinos whose identities were not known at press time.

An immigration spokesperson in Seattle said he did not know how long they would be held.

Yesterday, the first confirmed case of anthrax outside of the United States was found in the office of the largest newspaper in Pakistan.

Pakistan is a staunch ally in the US military campaign against the Taliban rulers of Afghanistan and Osama bin Laden.

The editor of the Pakistani daily in Karachi said that suspicious powder discovered in an envelope hand-delivered to his newspaper the previous week has tested positive for the presence of anthrax spores.

The editor of the Daily Jang said no staff

2 PINOYS/ A14

TOP GUN FIRES AWAY

Taking time out from her family holiday in Baguio City, President Macapagal brushes up on her firing skills at the Philippine Military Academy. EDWIN BACASMAS

Gloria's in a fix, says YOU leader

3 contending power blocs surround the President

BY CARLITO PABLO AND MARTIN P. MARFIL

THE MILITARY and other power blocs that put Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang are continually in contention, making her administration vulnerable to coup rumors, according to the chair of the Young Officers Union.

This situation has made it difficult for the President not only to consolidate power but also to institute immediate and sweeping reforms, said Supt. Rafael Cardeño, who was earlier held in Camp Crame for 10 hours on suspicion of involvement in a coup plot.

"Actually, she's in a fix," Cardeño said yesterday in a phone interview. "She has all the good intentions but she cannot go all-out because of the people around her. These sectors are all vying for greater influence in the government to protect and advance their vested interests."

And despite Malacañang's dismissal of the coup rumors, the President's own party believes that a plot against her administration is in the offing.

According to a press statement issued by the Lakas-NUCD, leaders of the YOU tried to recruit two Air Force pilots last month and the effort was flatly rejected.

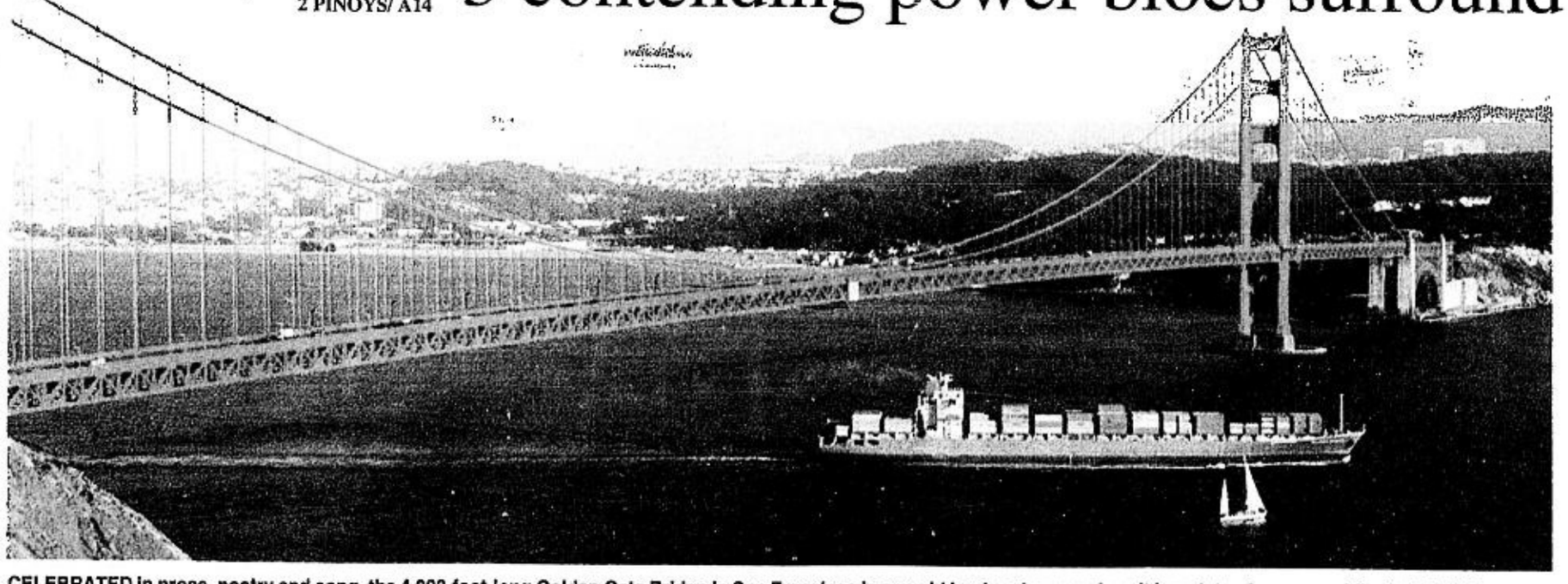
The pilots were allegedly offered money and positions to commandeer two planes to provide air support for the planned coup, but they refused and reported the matter to their superiors.

Lakas media adviser Ed Malay refused to name the pilots but said in a phone interview that one of the two participated in the 1989 coup attempt against the administration of then President Corazon Aquino.

Malay also said the information, which supposedly came from a military intelligence report, was "positive."

But Cardeño denied this. "I have never conducted any recruitment," he said by phone. "Nei-

GLORIA/ A14



CELEBRATED in prose, poetry and song, the 4,200-foot-long Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco is a world landmark as much as it is a vista of romance. Like that definitive song about the city by the bay by Tony Bennet that says, "The loveliness of Paris/seems somehow gray/The glory that was Rome is of another day . . ." AP

Golden Gate, 3 other California bridges in peril

SAN FRANCISCO—California Gov. Gray Davis ordered security tightened around the state's major bridges on Thursday—including San Francisco's famed Golden Gate Bridge—saying there was a "credible" threat they could be attacked starting as early as Friday.

Federal and state law enforcement officials quickly backtracked, however, saying the warning was very general and there was no need for specific public concern.

Nevertheless, the governor's warning marked one of the first times since the Sept. 11 hijack assaults on New York and Washington that officials named specific targets for potential attack—putting the so-far left alone US West Coast on notice that it could be hit.

"We want the public to know if there is a potential threat to their safety and we want them to know all the steps, in a general way, that we're taking to protect their safety," Davis told reporters after reports of the threats sent nerves jangling up and down the West Coast.

"I am very confident that those bridges are safe. They've never been so well protected."

Davis set alarm bells ringing Thursday when, during a news conference in Los Angeles, he announced he had received what was described as credible information "that between Nov. 2 (Friday) and Nov. 7 (next Wednesday) at rush hour there will be an effort to blow up one of those bridges."

Responding to a reporter's question, he identified the spans under threat as San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge and

GOLDEN/ A14

US to send warplanes, arms to RP

BY JENNIE L. ILUSTRE
PDI Correspondent

WASHINGTON—The United States is to turn over a refurbished C-130 and special weapons to the Philippines on Nov. 13 to help in the counter-terrorism efforts in Mindanao, the visiting commanding general of the Philippine Army said.

In addition, five refurbished UH-1H "Huey" helicopters, costing about $4.37 million and tentatively set to be shipped on Dec. 18, will arrive in the Philippines in January, Lt. Gen. Jaime S. de los Santos told the INQUIRER.

The C-130 will contain 350 grenade launchers, 25 81-mm mortars, five cal. 50 sniper rifles and 24 cal. 7.62s, as well as Generation 2 night vision goggles and

US/ A3

AFP: Abu feelers could be trick; negotiators to be hunted down

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL

THE OFFER of Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya to negotiate could be a "trick" meant to ease the military pressure on the bandit group's main body holding 10 kidnap victims, including two American missionaries, the Southern Command yesterday said.

"This could just be a diversionary tactic. He had been saying that (he would want to negotiate). If he is really sincere that he wants to surrender and negotiate for the release of the hostages . . . he can just surrender," Southcom chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu said on a phone interview with reporters covering the defense beat in Manila.

Cimatu said Southcom "will not allow him (Sabaya) to trick our troops. That is why we will continue our operations despite his pronouncement."

The Abu Sayyaf has been holding American couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and nine Filipinos in the jungles of Basilan.

One American, Guillermo Sobero, a Californian of Peruvian descent, and over a dozen Filipino hostages have been killed by the Abu Sayyaf since the rash of abductions began in May.

The Abu Sayyaf, which has links with Saudi-born dissident Osama bin Laden, the main suspect in the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States, has managed to evade military pursuit in the thickly forested island of Basilan for over five months.

But in recent weeks, there have been signs that troops are closing in on the Abu Sayyaf with the killing of many of their fighters, including nine slain in clashes with the military on Wednesday and Thursday.

Cimatu said the hunt for the Abu Sayyaf continued even though the latest series of clashes had since subsided.

The Abu Sayyaf's number may have shrunk to less than 800 fighters from an estimated 1,000 early this year, according to National Security Adviser Roilo Golez.

The decline may be the result of arrests, surrender and numerous casualties on the bandit group's side in the military offensive.

As the military pursues the Abu Sayyaf, there are reports that Sabaya is willing to turn himself in to authorities.

But Golez said on dzRH that reports of

AFP/ A14

GMA mouthpiece burns his bridges

BY CARLITO PABLO

PRESIDENTIAL spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao appears to be burning his bridges.

After hitting this paper for its headlines last week, the former INQUIRER columnist yesterday whacked the Ibon Databank and Research Center where he once worked as a writer during the days of the Marcos dictatorship.

What earned Tiglao's disapproval was Ibon's survey on Oct. 1-27, which showed that President Macapagal-Arroyo was losing support in Metro Manila because of the worsening economic situation.

"It is an unabashedly ideological group which

GLORIA A3

Second FRONT PAGE

Belmonte: 'Absolutely no interest'

Malacañang defends Quezon City mayor as Ombudsman probes 'leak'

BELMONTE

BY AGNES E. DONATO
AND CARLITO PABLO

QUEZON City Mayor Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte said yesterday he had "absolutely no interest" in the two telecommunications franchise bills whose veto he had reportedly asked the President to recall.

In a letter to the INQUIRER, Belmonte said he did not even know the owners of the two telecoms firms—Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc. (PCCI) and APC Wireless Interface Network Inc. (APC)—that would have greatly benefited from the vetoes' recall.

"I do not know the owners of the two firms; I have not talked or been in contact with any of them," Belmonte said.

The Office of the Ombudsman's fact-finding and investigation bureau (FFIB) had recommended the filing of graft charges against Belmonte for writing two letters to the President when he was speaker of the House asking Ms Macapagal to recall her veto of the franchise bills.

The bills would have given PCCI and APC license to control the telephone airwaves and the supply of equipment to telecoms companies, respectively.

The FFIB recommendation was contained in a report dated Oct. 15, but which the Office of the Ombudsman had been keeping under wraps.

Yesterday, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto ordered an investigation into the premature disclosure of the report after the INQUIRER had managed to obtain a copy.

Desierto said he would ask FFIB Director Gerardo Latoria Jr. to explain how the 16-page report got to the media when the investigation was still in the "evidence-gathering stage."

According to the report, it was then Speaker Belmonte, not First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, who had "acted to persuade, induce or influence" the President into recalling her veto of the two telecoms bills.

In the report, Latoria and the other FFIB members recommended the filing of graft charges against Belmonte for violation of Section 3(e) of Republic Act 3019, as amended, in conjunction with Article IV Section 27 of the Constitution.

They also urged that charges of gross misconduct and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service be filed against Malou Nuñez, former consultant of the Department of Transportation and Communication, who had followed up the status of the recall attempt at Malacañang.

The report said that Belmonte, in his letters, had made it appear that the request for recall of the vetoes "was an official act of the Office of the Speaker."

Belmonte replied that he had no personal interest in the bills and that he only signed the letters on the request of congressmen he would not name.

"I have absolutely no personal interest in the bills," the mayor said.

"Secretary Gabriel Claudio will affirm that I told him I was not pushing for the bills. I did not talk to the President, the First Gentleman or anybody in Malacañang about this, except Secretary Claudio," Belmonte said.

The FFIB report cleared Claudio, presidential legislative liaison officer, and Veronica "Bing" Rodrigo, former correspondence secretary and close friend of the President, of any involvement in the recall try.

Belmonte maintained there was nothing illegal or improper with his having written the two letters, as "nothing in the Constitution or any statute prohibits the recall of a Presidential veto."

"Secondly, both the APC and the PCCI bills contained normal provisions found in similar bills, some of which are now laws," he said.

Belmonte also tried to downplay the FFIB report. "The investigation is still in the recommendatory stage. The Ombudsman himself still has to act on the report," he said. The Ombudsman has the discretion to approve or revise the report before making it final.

Malacañang yesterday defended Belmonte from any liability in the alleged telecoms scam.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said that Belmonte had merely endorsed to the presidential legislative liaison office a request by congressmen for the recall of the President's veto of the two franchise bills.

"Mayor Belmonte has emphasized that there was nothing unconstitutional, nothing illegal in a House speaker endorsing a request by congressmen," Tiglao said.

The investigation revealed Belmonte had written Claudio twice seeking the recall of the presidential veto of the franchise bills.

Belmonte said the letters were merely "ministerial" in nature as he was only endorsing the request of some congressmen.

Tiglao said the recommendations of the FFIB could be reversed by Desierto upon review.

"It's only preliminary. When it comes to the Ombudsman himself, it could be reversed," Tiglao said.

Erap seeks treatment in the US

DETAINED ex-President Joseph Estrada is ill and wants to be allowed to seek medical treatment in the United States, a radio station reported yesterday.

Estrada, who is being held at the Philippine Veterans Hospital in Quezon City while facing trial for massive corruption, is complaining of growing pain in his knees and that his vision is getting blurred, the Radio Mindanao Network reported.

He is hoping that his lawyers can successfully petition the courts to allow him to go to the United States to seek medical treatment, the report said.

Estrada, 64, was toppled in a popular uprising in January over a growing corruption scandal which later formed the basis for his arrest and trial on graft charges.

He was moved from a police camp to the military hospital on May 12 for treatment of bronchitis and emphysema.

In recent years, he has undergone treatment for his eyes in the United States and is also believed to be suffering from gout. *AFP*

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Candles in the dark in lahar country

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

BACOLOR, Pampanga—From the unlit stretch of the Gapan-San Fernando-Olongapo (GSO) Highway here, one emerges into a landscape of flickering candles, blazing torches, and shadowy forms as people huddled around the tombs of their loved ones in Bacolor's two cemeteries, now buried under lahar.

Some 400 meters from the pitch-black highway, the cross of the 425-year-old, half-buried San Guillermo Church stands illuminated by a big spotlight to guide residents returning briefly for the feast of the dead.

For regular travelers on the dark highway, this is a rare sight, seen only on All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day in Bacolor—the town that was virtually erased from the map by the Mt. Pinatubo eruptions in 1991.

In October 1995, lahar from the volcano killed more than 100 people and sent town residents on an exodus out of the stricken land.

To Fr. Nestor Tayag, the Bacolor parish priest, what was more extraordinary is that although the dead have been buried several times over under 15 meters of lahar, the living go back to the town to pay their respect.

All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day have become "rites of returning, and of reaffirming spiritual victory after the disaster," he said.

Councilor Nilo Caballa, for instance, can only estimate the exact location where his father is buried, using as his marker—as does everyone else—the dome of the chapel cemetery.

The compound of the San Guillermo Church in Barangay Cabambangan has become a kind of living museum to Bacolor residents who have mostly left and started new lives in some eight resettlement sites throughout the province.

As in San Guillermo, the cemetery in Barangay Santa Ines, still called by its old Kapampangan name of Patirik-tirik, is the site of family reunions and picnics among the fields of tall grasses that have grown on the lahar-covered grounds.

Some 60 people who have died in the resettlement sites asked to be buried in the old town.

Plans for the restoration of the old Catholic cemetery are now under way, said Tayag.

The cemetery is to be encircled by a wall where the names of the dead would be etched.

The town's Book of the Dead—volumes of it plucked from rampaging lahar—is now preserved at the San Fernando archdiocesan archives.

Residents have asked the National Historical Institute and the University of the Philippines College of Engineering to help in the restoration project of the town.

GMA hopeful on release of RP seaman in Sino jail

BY CARLITO PABLO

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday she was hopeful the Filipino seaman now languishing in a Chinese prison would be released soon.

The President said the Chinese government has agreed to review the case of Rizalde Astrolabio, who is in prison for the alleged murder of another man in a fight.

The President said that from the information she gathered, Astrolabio was only in the group that rumbled but was not the direct killer of the victim. She did not elaborate, however, according to an Agence France Presse report.

Astrolabio was the only Filipino prisoner now in Chinese jails for whom the President sought clemency in her talks with Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

"So they are reviewing that and I think it will come out well," Ms Macapagal said in an official statement released by Malacañang.

The President said she had sought clemency only for Astrolabio because his case did not involve illegal drugs.

It is traditional for a visiting state leader to ask for leniency in behalf of jailed compatriots in the host country.

"This is not a case of early release, however," the President said. "In other words, after his release from the Chinese prison, Astrolabio will serve the rest of his sentence in the Philippines."

With an AFP report

Gloria mouthpiece burns his bridges

(From page A1)

means they are against any government," Tiglao told Palace reporters at a briefing.

In a separate statement which he issued later, Tiglao described Ibon as "an ideologically leftwing group."

Tiglao even made fun of Ibon at his briefing by saying that it may have polled members of militant organizations like the Kilusang Mayo Uno and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

"That would explain the result," said Tiglao, who described himself as an anti-Marcos activist when Sen. Panfilo Lacson, a former police chief, recently accused him as a communist.

Tiglao, a former detainee during the Marcos regime, did not say that Ibon was identified with the underground National Democratic Front but pointed out that Ibon was styling itself as a "pro-poor" organization.

Tiglao said Ibon did not have polling expertise unlike Pulse Asia Inc., which he described as "reputable," and Social Weather Stations.

Results of the Ibon survey of 350 respondents showed that Ms Macapagal had a 19.2-percent net approval rating last month.

A total of 52.3 percent of the respondents said they were satisfied with the Macapagal administration's performance despite the economic and political crises, while 33.1 percent said they were dissatisfied.

Fifty-six percent said they felt that the economic situation had worsened.

A total of 56.6 percent of the respondents said that their income was not enough to meet their daily needs while 38.9 percent said that they could not find enough livelihood in their communities.

During the first quarter of the year, the livelihood of 42.3 percent of the respondents, who had sources of income, had become worse, according to Ibon.

No methodology

Tiglao said that Ibon had no clear survey methodology and that it did not explain its sampling technique.

To prove his point that Ibon could not conduct polls properly, Tiglao cited the results of the Sept. 22 to Oct. 4 survey conducted by Pulse Asia.

Tiglao said Pulse Asia's survey showed that Ms Macapagal's net approval rating in Metro Manila "zoomed" to 40 percent in October from only 6 percent in April.

"So which would you believe?" Tiglao said.

He said Ibon was a research group, which "grew out of the anti-dictatorship period" and where he worked as a writer for about a year.

It was established in 1978. On its webpage, Ibon Foundation Inc. says it conducts studies on socio-economic issues and seeks to bring this knowledge and information to the greatest number of people.

The Databank and Research Center, one of Ibon's original programs, provides up-to-date information on socio-economic issues for advocacy, education, policy-making, development planning and implementation for NGOs, government agencies, media, business enterprises and individuals.

Asked about Ibon's track record based on his personal knowledge as a former writer, Tiglao said: "They do not support any government at all."

US to send warplanes, arms to RP

(From page A1)

thermal imaging equipment.

Negotiations with the US government are going on for the purchase of surveillance equipment in line with the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The delivery of the refurbished aircraft and other surplus military hardware was contained in an agreement signed on July 27 last year in the White House, during the visit of then President Joseph Estrada.

De los Santos, who gained prominence as commander of the United Nations peacekeeping force in East Timor, expressed optimism that in the future, the US government would transfer an additional C-130, three more Hueys, cyclone-class patrol craft for the Navy and tactical radios.

He said the US Congress had been poised to approve about $19 million in appropriations for the "operation and maintenance" of the aircraft and equipment. But the recent discoveries of anthrax spores in the Senate building mailroom and freight elevator, forcing the evacuation of senators and their staffs and the temporary closure of House office buildings, had disrupted the lawmakers' schedule.

The US Congress has been viewing the Philippines favorably since President Macapagal-Arroyo offered full support to President George W. Bush and the US-led military action against prime terrorist suspect Osama bin Laden and his protector, Afghanistan's ruling Taliban.

The two Presidents will meet on Nov. 20 at the White House. Ms Macapagal will also meet with legislators when she visits this US capital on Nov. 18-20.

EDA arrangement

In the course of his visit, De los Santos called on Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, chief of staff of the US Army, to seek the latter's assistance in the delivery of the aircraft and weapons under the Excess Defense Articles (EDA) arrangement.

Col. Jason Weintraub, army attaché in the US Embassy in Manila, was present at the 30-minute meeting held on Oct. 16.

"I told General Shinseki we needed to improve our firepower, mobility and communication in our fight against the Abu Sayyaf," De los Santos said.

He said the US military had been helping in the intelligence aspect of the Philippine military's operations in Mindanao.

Col. Bonifacio B. Ramos, defense attaché at the Philippine Embassy in Washington, said that of 18 troop carriers to be delivered to the Philippines, five were shipped on Oct. 25. The rest will be shipped in mid-November.

Ramos also said that 71 of the 200 engines for six-by-six trucks were already on the way to Manila, and that he would inspect 50 more truck engines due for shipment.

He said the US government released in April $1.9 million for the counter-terrorism training of the Philippine Army.

Also under the EDA agreement, the US has delivered 435 trucks and two Coast Guard cutters.

Success

Ramos said De los Santos' visit to Washington was a success.

De los Santos also spoke before the World Bank Group-IMF (International Monetary Fund) Filipino Association.

He briefed his audience on the operations against the Abu Sayyaf and invited Filipino-American businessmen to invest in their country of birth. "We will protect your investments," he said.

IMF security manager David Cook told the INQUIRER that he was "a little bit concerned that there might still be terrorist cells in Metro Manila."

But he said that he was reassured by what he had heard from their personnel who had made official trips "to Luzon mostly," and that the Philippine government was "doing something" about the situation.

"We expect the Abu Sayyaf to be eradicated," Weintraub told those present at the forum. "We are doing a lot of things—things we cannot talk about, things that have never been done before."

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'Three realities'

EDITORIAL

AT THE END of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's state visit to China last week, she identified three "realities" that would guide the strategic priorities of her foreign policy.

The first is the relationship between China, Japan and the United States which can influence security and economic developments in the Asia Pacific. The second, Philippine foreign policy decisions would be made in the context of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The third is the Organization of Islamic Conference, whose member states are the main source of our oil imports and which exerts a powerful influence in moderating the current of the separatist movement in Muslim Mindanao.

President Macapagal's realities manifest nothing new in the strategic concerns of the Philippines since the administration of President Fidel V. Ramos who reduced the accent of our foreign policy on bilateral US-RP relations and upgraded the importance of our Asian neighbors. What's new are the newly minted phrases to describe a policy direction that has been under way during the past decade. The strategic importance of the OIC has been underlined since the Marcos administration which signed the Tripoli Agreement in the 1970s as the framework within which to end the rebellion of the Moro National Liberation Front and which defined the elements of Muslim autonomy within the Philippine Republic.

We have no quarrel with the President over her recognition of the "reality" that the interaction between China, Japan and the United States is important to the emerging balance of power in the Asia Pacific. China's growing economic power in the region is heralded by its imminent entry into the World Trade Organization. President Macapagal's visit to China, after visits to Asean countries and Japan, is a recognition of the emergence of China as the economic giant in the region, challenging Japan's long economic dominance.

When Ms Macapagal welcomed China's entry into the WTO, she was not only interested in forging an economic partnership with Beijing and in planting a stake in China's teeming market for Philippine exports. She was also considering China's membership in the WTO as a reinforcement of her ideological belief that globalization, with its regime of liberalized trading, is the engine of growth for the Philippine economy and that, a liberalized regime of international trade is even more needed now to stimulate economic growth set back by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

This then is the most important result of her visit to China. In the immediate term, the agreement on cooperation with China against transnational crimes—including drug trafficking and production of narcotics—is useful in the context of the development of the Philippines as a regional center of drug trafficking but is overshadowed by the economic role of China in the region. President Macapagal promised to give a "fresh look" at Chinese proposals to shelve sovereignty issues over the disputed islands in the Spratly chain, while considering joint development plans for these territories. This development ahead of sovereignty approach has been a consistent Chinese policy, and her visit has not changed it.

During the past few months, President Macapagal has strutted on the regional stage to project the Philippines as a dynamic actor in foreign affairs. She has put forward the Philippines as a strong US ally in the US-led campaign on terrorism. Her strategic priorities in their external dimension appear correct and based on regional realities. But her posturing is hobbled in the home front. Her capacity to execute foreign policy is impaired by two elements: ineffective leadership of her foreign policy instrument, the foreign service, and her parochial appointments to ambassadorial posts. Her appointments, for example, of political ambassadors to key diplomatic posts, disclose choices based on political trade-offs and compromises. By and large, the appointments, which are products of the spoils system, do now draw a profile that shows strategic sense in the placement of envoys to countries which are politically and economically important to the Philippines. The Department of Foreign Affairs' leadership is groping in the dark and has not fully utilized the expertise and experience of its career staff.

Before her three "realities" can take off, the stage from which initiatives to translate them into action must first be rebuilt. Otherwise, her foreign policy vision is doomed to fold up on soft grounds.

A flawed nobility

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

ALL that twaddle about the nobility of the poor, often accompanied by a sigh or a sob, leaves me cold. It's pure theater, and second-rate theater at that. The source betrays the motives of this hypocritical protestation: the politician or the labor leader.

The premise is all wrong...that the poor *per se* are noble because they are poor. That is obviously fallacious. Moreover, it assumes that nobility is monopolized by the poor, again because they are poor. That virtue is barred to all others who are not poor.

Nobility is a richness of character that may be discovered in every individual regardless of status. Ignobility can afflict every social class and not only the rich.

Where was the nobility in the rampaging mob that stormed the gates of Malacañang on May 1? That rabble was fed by gin and drugs and cash to lay waste the Palace of the People. They were not espousing the cause of the poor when they defied authority, terrified the populace and vandalized property. They simply went berserk for the heck of it.

In a recent column, Art Borjal narrated the story of three Australian tourists who had come here for an 18-day sojourn but abruptly left in a huff after only three days. Why? They were disgusted over the attempts of several taxi drivers who tried to gyp them, hoping they were gullible foreigners.

We're all familiar with drivers who blithely stop in the middle of the street to load or unload passengers. When you complain, how do they answer? *"Naghahanapbuhay lang ang tao!"* as if that excuses everything. That is probably the same excuse the kidnapper or the robber gives when he is arrested.

I was watching a recent TV report on the anti-smoke belching campaign where the Land Transportation Office announced the impounding of vehicles until they install smoke diffusers. Up spoke this indignant observer who asked on behalf of the poor, "*Paano naman ang kawawang driver na walang kikitain samantala*?"

This bleeding heart would subordinate the common welfare to the selfish interests of the driver who should not have driven the smoke-belcher in the first place. And why? Because the driver is poor, never mind the smoke-belching.

And what about squatters judicially evicted from private property belonging to others? Refusing to budge, they claim they are being oppressed *"dahil mahirap lamang kami."* The Supreme Court has repeatedly held that social justice is not a license to commit crime, whoever the culprit.

Where is the nobility in all of these acts? Are they to be condoned because they are done by the noble poor?

I repeat, nobility knows no class distinctions. But it should not be used to justify those acts that, whether committed by the rich or the poor, are detrimental to the public welfare.

In Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar," the "noble Brutus" said that he slew his friend "not that I loved Caesar less but that I loved Rome more." And he stabbed him face to face. By contrast, John Wilkes Booth shot Abraham Lincoln from behind in a cowardly act of treachery. Whatever his motive, his knavery was ignoble.

I do not reprove only the poor for there ignoble acts. The rich have more opportunities to be ignoble, and they have many times demonstrated that cynical weakness.

I firmly believe that much of the discontent threatening our society is caused by the excesses of the rich in heartlessly flaunting their wealth at the starving masses. There seems to be no compunction among many of them to exhibit their riches to the underprivileged and the deprived as if to taunt them in their misery.

Some months ago, I was revolted by the picture of one of the filthy rich celebrating his birthday in an outlandish foreign costume that evidently cost a small fortune. Not to be outdone, his wife wore a matching dress that must have evoked gushing admiration from their guests. And there was of course the sumptuous feast.

Every day, in fact, the society pages of our broadsheets regale the reader with tales of happenings awash with splendor and jewels unmindful of the collapsing economy. One item reported an elegant wedding where the bride's mother described her daughter as "a vision of ethereal loveliness." (She was not.)

And you may remember that elegant fashion show some months ago where the senators acted as models and exhibited their custom-tailored finery for the whole nation to admire. Many could not because they were desperately foraging for food in the garbage dumps of the metropolis.

Where is the nobility in all this extravagant frippery?

If I were a dictator, I would prohibit the society pages as an unconscionable mockery of the poor masses that can only gawk in envy and mounting resentment at the gaucheries of the rich. The behavior of many of them belongs to the court of Louis XVI where the defiant tone of the revelry was "After us, the deluge!"

But having more sense than that, I would simply abide the society pages and skip all the wild festivities of the idle rich while looking for the comic section. That is more refreshing and on occasion displays a deeper civic conscience.

I suggest that the poor among us should disabuse themselves of the notion that being poor gives them the right to commit abuses on the ground alone that they are poor. And may I remind the rich that they should not exacerbate our explosive social condition with the thoughtless ostentation of their wealth as their only proof that they are better than the rest of us.

Those galling GSIS ads

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THERE were full-page ads in several newspapers recently, extolling the virtues and accomplishments of the Government Service Insurance System, complete with a picture of its president and general manager, Winston Garcia. Needless to say, the newspaper space must have been paid for by the GSIS, courtesy of the contributions of all government employees, who perforce are members of this financial institution, but who have no say whatsoever in who runs or manages it.

Reading through that advertisement, the unwary reader would think that there is everything right, and nothing wrong with the GSIS—which is precisely the impression that those who are behind the ad want to give. It is as if the past two months, during which the GSIS has been at the center of financial and other scandals, never even happened.

Not so fast, boys. For over 30 years I have been contributing to that fund, and it galls me, as it must gall all the other members, that my private sector counterparts who belong to the Social Security System, will be entitled, with the same amount of contributions, to more benefits not only now, but when they retire. Which should not, by the way, be construed to mean that the SSS is doing very well—just that while it, too, has been riddled with scandal and alleged corruption, it has done better than the GSIS.

As a card-carrying member for the past 30 years, I believe I am entitled to an explanation of why the GSIS has done so badly by its members, relatively speaking. That, accompanied by a thoroughly studied plan to improve its performance in the future, would sit better on me as an advertisement rather than the spectacle of a self-serving GSIS ad where its management and board are essentially patting themselves on the back and urging the readers to do the same.

And if I can't get that kind of analysis, at the very least my fellow members and I (there are, I expect, more than 1.5 million of us) are entitled to a written and public explanation of why officials, board members and employees of the GSIS think that they are entitled to salaries and retirement benefits that range from double to over nine times that of the rest of us government employees, who, let us never forget, pay those salaries and benefits.

Only consider: A government employee covered under the Salary Standardization Law (SSL), with a salary grade of 3, gets a basic monthly salary of P7,177, compared with a GSIS employee of the same rank receives P14,670. By the time you reach salary grade 31 (the highest grade), the total salary and benefits of the government employee reach P63,762 a month, while the GSIS official receives P564,869.55.

Or you can put it this way: The so-called monthly Rata (representation and allowance) alone of a salary grade 22 GSIS employee is more than the basic salary of a salary grade 8 government employee.

While we're at it, I still haven't heard any explanation of why, not content with screwing their own members, the GSIS management seem to be bent on screwing other government agencies as well—which is what the scandals of the past two months are all about.

Only recall that Napocor president Jess Alcordo, for all intents and purposes, accused the GSIS not only of corruption but incompetence as well. If memory serves me well, the Napocor was paying over $13 million in annual premiums for reinsurance through the GSIS, only to discover that the reinsurers received less than $4 million. To add insult to injury, the GSIS drags its feet in processing the Napocor's insurance claims.

Ask any other government agency what they think of GSIS service, particularly when it comes to getting their insurance claims paid—and you are likely to get your ears blistered with a litany of complaints.

Obviously, the Department of Energy and the Department of Finance are sympathetic to the Napocor's claims—because they have permitted the Napocor to conduct its own bidding for insurance, rather than to have it go through the GSIS, which has traditionally been in charge.

But we should no longer be content with this kind of solution. If there has been corruption and incompetence in the GSIS, it cannot be just glossed over. The culprits should be charged, jailed and made to pay reparations. We are sick and tired of letting them go scot-free, or with nothing but a light tap on the wrist, because this is why corruption is so endemic in this country—the chances of being caught are so small. And when one is caught, one still manages not to be punished. To hell with all that.

For the past two months, wearing my hat as a radio broadcaster, I, as well as other commentators, have tried to get Winston Garcia, or any responsible GSIS official or representative, on the phone, to give the GSIS' side. But they have been incredibly elusive. Very good at stonewalling. The promised press conference never took place—or if it did, we were not informed. Until the full-page "anniversary" ad came out.

But if they think that the issues against them will die a natural death, if they think they will be saved by the short concentration span of the reading public, or by continuing to encourage envelopmental journalism, they have another think coming.

Packaging the 'GMA look'

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

EARLIER I narrated here the observation of Philippine Ambassador to Buenos Aires Carlos Villa-Abrille that the Argentines are impressed with Ms Macapagal largely because of her intelligence and her good looks. As Villa-Abrille put it, "*alam mo naman ang mga Latino, basta maganda ka gusto ka nila*." This column then cited a common observation that the President seems to be blooming these days, despite her many problems in governance. I also wrote that the person who has helped put together what has come to be called the "GMA look," characterized largely by the classic two-piece suit or pantsuit that gives the President a corporate look, is a former fashion model named Joanne Zapanta-Andrada.

* * *

The other day I had a most fascinating conversation with Ms Andrada, 36, a UP AB-English graduate, wife of a bank executive and mother of three, who serves as Ms Macapagal's fashion consultant when she's not busy writing children's stories and articles. Andrada has over the past year been working on a purely volunteer basis with Ms Macapagal on her "fashion image." Her mother, Cherry Zapanta, is a close friend of Ms Macapagal, and her grandparents were friends with the elder Macapagals. That close relationship may be the key to the implicit trust her "Tita Gloria" has reposed in Andrada, whose task is to coordinate with the fashion designers that execute Ms Macapagal's clothes, especially for foreign visits, as well as the hairstylist and accessories makers.

* * *

Ms Macapagal's main designer is multi-awarded Inno Sotto, who made her clothes for the Singapore, Brunei and Apec/China visits and is currently finishing her wardrobe for her Jakarta and US trips this month. The other is a young relatively unknown designer named JC Buendia, who apprenticed for designer Cesar Gaupo for 10 years before going on his own. Buendia, who has built up a reputation for "precision-tailoring" so needed in those corporate suits, made Ms Macapagal's clothes for the Japan and Malaysia visits as well as for her two-piece Muslim-inspired gown used for the State of the Nation Address in July. That Sona outfit was noted and praised by CNN.

At the rate Ms Macapagal is conducting foreign trips back to back, Sotto virtually does nothing but her clothes now—a virtual carte blanche for the pony-tailed designer. For Andrada, it's much simpler to deal with just one or two couturiers, as by now there's hardly any need for Ms Macapagal to fit the clothes; which is good, as she hardly has the time for it anyway.

Andrada revealed that Ms Macapagal uses only local designers as well as a local shoe manufacturer, Janylyn, and two local bag-makers, Twist and Voyage, which custom-make petite-sized bags for her. Her late mother, Dr. Evangelina Macapagal, left her a number of good jewelry pieces which her fashion consultant had reset or restranded to the contemporary look. Andrada stressed that while Ms Macapagal has a few imported brands like Albert Nippon and Vividas in her wardrobe, her preference is for locally designed and made clothes and accessories. In fact, in all her foreign trips, the President brings only RP-made clothes—which is a big boost for local designers and manufacturers. Ms Macapagal follows her own dictum, "Buy local," and right now, says Andrada, this does not preclude her and Sotto from getting knits and cardigan casuals for her from Tutuban.

People have also noticed the new GMA hairstyle. That cut was done by Paris-based Frank Provost during a trip to Manila, but since then the trimming and makeup are done by local stylist Gener Miranda who has since given up his shop and now works fulltime for Ms Macapagal.

* * *

Andrada speaks about the enormous challenge of working on the presidential wardrobe. The idea is to find the balance between projecting Ms Macapagal as presidential and elegant, yet simple ("no *borloloy*") and at the same time, deliver the message that this is not a head of state bowled over by fashion; that she's a well-dressed hands-on working President who's not fussy about clothes. The "message" is the main thing, says Andrada, and the team's aim—to relieve Ms Macapagal of all worries about her clothes—is "a patriotic duty for us." She adds that Sotto's unnamed fees are very much a part of that duty. "We have edited her wardrobe to such an extent that everything now is so coordinated and up to presidential standards," she says.

* * *

Dressing up a female President has many challenges. Ms Macapagal has a good figure, points out Andrada, but her 4'11" height calls for meticulous planning, even in her handbags which cannot be allowed to dwarf her. "We have discussed this business of bags to a science," she says. Then too, Ms Macapagal goes by a "stringent" budget and she repeats use of clothes, especially favorites. Then there are demands of state functions, and here the overall presidential visit coordinator, Ambassador Marcial Paynor, has a lot of say. For Muslim countries, for instance, Ms Macapagal's skirt length has to be at least 4 inches below the knee. The call on the Emperor and Empress of Japan was a fashion "problem" inasmuch as the Empress Michiko is a famed fashion-plate who's tall (5'7"); Ms Macapagal had to be projected but in understated elegance. What Buendia did for her was a basic aqua-blue shift dress with an opera coat in the same color with lime green lining, that made her look taller, adorned with only a two-strand pearl necklace.

The press office also has some say, advising when to tone down Ms Macapagal's colors or when to make them more "aggressive" or project a "no-nonsense" image.

* * *

Andrada says that normally the President does not make "*pakialam*" on what she would wear, leaving it to the team. But once she did, about her outfit at the Sona. Ms Macapagal called her to specify that she wanted a two-piece Muslim-inspired outfit with pants, as she would be alighting from a helicopter. Buendia beaded the aqua-blue gown at the sleeves and the neckline. I noted to Andrada that the President's designers tended to use aqua-blue color and she replied that while Ms Macapagal's favorite color was red, aqua-blue is a "power color" that is at the same time "not aggressive." For the US trip this fall, Sotto is preparing outfits in warmer tones such as rust, subdued greens, etc. Expect him to take extra pains with Ms Macapagal's outfits for New York, for that is the world's fashion center.

I queried Andrada if she would come along to supervise Ms Macapagal's outfits on the US trip and she said no, as "there is no budget for such things." This is indeed a refreshing change from the Imeldific's time. What the fashion team does is to prepare everything in advance according to schedule and pack the clothes individually, according to a photographed sequence guide. Each outfit is packed complete with accessories, and properly labeled (Day 1, lunch; dinner, etc.) so that all the lady attendant who accompanies the President on each trip has to do is to pull it out. Sounds effortless, but in reality, a whole lot of work went into it, just like the visits themselves.

Politics 101

YOUNGBLOOD

M. Carandang

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

FIRST let me say that this is not about my life.

I can still vividly recall that day in our college library when I was looking for a Louisa May Alcott book only to find myself holding a tattered "Catcher in the Rye" by J.D. Salinger. It would be simpler to say that I fell in love that particular school day afternoon with Holden Caulfield and looking back I could fit the pieces why.

Like Holden I was an idealist once. School is a neat place to study and learn and out there is the good life after. But then again in the novel, Holden quit school and in a parallel kind of way, I understood him.

Maybe it was because of my youth. Or for outgrowing too quickly the daily concerns of girls my age like boyfriends or makeup. I joined politics at 17 in the organization this country calls the Sangguniang Kabataan. I did not know then how a single random decision could seriously alter my life in more ways than one. Now is 2001. I am still in politics for an extended term but this time I want out.

Figure a trapeze artist getting bored of routines and you will understand why I would want to quit politics at this age. Or more like that bull in "Someone Like You" dismissing an old cow. To quit politics was just too inviting, like that *crème brulee* in the midst of calorie counting, or that Italian line on sale. I found out that the SK can become a cliché to a person's life and if offered in excessive doses (like extending a term for instance), can intoxicate like power itself.

To put it bluntly, my fine print in that candidacy form became the beginning of what seemed like insanity to me. For once you are inside the political ring at a young age, you would have to understand that you have to secure votes whatever it takes. Even if it meant giving free packets of juices to teenagers you don't even know in your street. You temporarily postpone Kafka, Dickinson and the classics and mingle with other young people who may be a politician's son or daughter and pretend liking them. You have to smile and shake hands even if you are exhausted from the noonday sun. Forget sunscreen. Forget Winona Ryder and Ethan Hawke. But never forget to smile.

You will be invited to Tagaytay trips courtesy of a national candidate together with the all too naïve young leaders of your age who may have yet to understand why you're going there. You will have to attend concerts (of bands you never heard of) sponsored by the mayor and shake hands again and smile again. You can only wish you had your braces at that particular age for a legit excuse to frown and pout. You will be escorted by a number of bodyguards everywhere you go, short of a celebrity in the MTV awards night. You will dine with the powers that be and famous people like governors and congressmen, who, like you, shake hands and smile and are surrounded by bodyguards.

Welcome to the world of politics. It is like being on the Discovery channel where you become this young prey for predators and wild beasts to feed on. It is the world where natural selection is at its most active. It is where you find out that there are a lot of things that can bore you and that it makes more sense to study Esperanto than be in it.

If you think you will meet a John F. Kennedy or a Tony Blair in politics, you will only learn that it was just a figment of your imagination. Yes, they may be few but they are those that you really have to go out looking for like a well in the Sahara. Most of the time, at least from my experience, you will most likely meet people who confuse Fs for Ps, who can induce you to sleep more than your math textbook, or who wear Madonna outfits in "Like A Virgin" with excess hair sprays and face paint.

You will know that in this kind of world, seldom do you meet real people. They are more like holograms. There is no place for lasting friendships because come election time, you will have to choose your friends. You will have to deal with irony because that is the only way you can ever understand what is going on. When two political parties want to share wealth and votes, they get married. When one candidate is endorsed over the other, one breaks away. If you look like Jason Biggs, you have more chances of winning than a Charlie Brown face with a good heart and a head between the ears.

When I look at young people getting into politics, I sort of pity them. I know that their idealism can only bring them that far. I hope that they will not be eaten up by the system because there is so much promise for the young. I am still an SK leader and I begrudge how we were politicized by the supposed role models of our time. While the desire to make a difference has always been there, sad to say, Philippine politics was not prepared for us.

That is how Holden in the Salinger novel made sense to me. He found no reason to conform to a world that makes no sense to him. I remember him saying that he loves museums so much because it is the only place where everything stays the same and are in place, unless of course the curator meddles. Politics is quite the opposite. It was like the biggest folly the Greeks gave to civilization. Sad to say in this country, the youth were inheriting the kind of politics where they have to be like everybody else and be simply dull.

I can enumerate the senseless bureaucratic crap that an SK president faces before creating a small project, but you might fall asleep. Suffice it to say that before you see that marker in your street bearing the SK council's names, an SK president would have to deal with incessant rubbings the way the primitive men made fire from pebbles. The youth were never autonomous in this country. The SK is just one big farce. They were in truth helpless.

I would have to say that despite these things, the kind of youth politics I was exposed to made me want to become a better person, in a Jack Nicholson kind of way. Politics made my life complete. It allowed me to see and accept the things I cannot change and why I have to be fully brave in facing them. I learned that to have a good intention is a virtue and that you have to understand your own person to be able to survive in it. I may not be a Margaret Thatcher or a Carlos Romulo but I realized I could choose to be different.

That is why in this age of raining bombs and surreal heartbreaks, I have learned to appreciate the craziness called politics. It made me understand what I have to do and what I can do. That is why Holden makes sense to me when he said he would rather catch people if they fall off cliffs because there, at least you know you are doing something. It is a crazy thing to do like being in politics and at least it is not selfish.

M. Carandang, 24, is president of the Sangguniang Kabataan in Batangas.

Madness in the middle of the 'Thrilla'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN 1975, just three years after declaring martial law, the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos played host to what was billed as "The Thrilla in Manila." This was to be the last of a trilogy of great encounters between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier, two fighters who had dominated the world of championship boxing for more than a decade.

The "Thrilla" would prove to be a turning point not just in the boxing careers of both men, but in their lives as well. No one was more aware of this than Ali himself. "We went to Manila as champions, Joe and me, and we came back as old men," he remarked to Mark Kram, who covered boxing for Sports Illustrated for 11 years, and covered the "Thrilla" and much of Ali's rise and decline.

Kram has recently published a book, titled "Ghosts of Manila," in which he examines not just the epic bout that was the "Thrilla," but also the lives and careers of Ali and Frazier and the nature of the sport of boxing.

Filipinos should find the book even more riveting because of Kram's reflections about Manila—its sights, sounds and people, especially the conjugal dictatorship of Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos. Below is an excerpt about the dark side of the city and of the man who dominated our lives for over two decades and still casts a shadow over current affairs.

* * *

MANILA did not provide the usual backlighting of film noir, endemic to boxing but for a long time hardly evident. Instead, the city, sagging under the weight of millions from the provinces, threw up the feel of tropic-gothic, a place, as Graham Greene once said of Saigon, that "held you as a smell does." ...The city was a crossroads of sorts, teeming with gem dealers and smugglers, weapons merchants, Arabs shopping for indentured slaves, homosexuals trolling for little boys, GIs from nearby Clark Field feverishly searching for the action that, unfortunately with each new posting, spread unfairly the label on Manila as the oral sex capital of the world. What other name could its powerful religious head have but Cardinal Sin?

Rumors moved as fast as the drinks by the pools and in the lavish hotels that Imelda Marcos, a queen with an "edifice complex," was raising at an alarming rate to attract tourists, principally waves of Japanese. There were whispers of the "Bionic Boy" sequestered by Imelda and Ferdinand, a wastrel-seer picked up for his occult powers...

One rumor passed on to me by a Filipino cop was of the skeleton factory, where people murdered by cops were taken. Bones were boiled, marrow separated, steamed and blow-dried, then looped through with wiring before shipment to foreign scholars and labs. The skeleton chop-shop never stayed in the same place. I spent, given my curious propulsion toward the socially abnormal, a good part of the night with the cop looking for one in every fetid crevice. "We'll know it by the smell," he kept saying. We found one shop but it was empty, abandoned, with only a sweet excrescence faintly in the air and a splinter of bone the cop picked up in a corner.

* * *

IT did not surprise that President Marcos agreed to an interview with myself and Peter Bonventre of Newsweek. That was the whole purpose of the fight, access and exposure to the rest of the world, to show that Manila was no more an outlaw city, that foreign investment was secure, that martial law, for all its connotations, was a cleansing instrument; Martial Law with a smile. For that opportunity, Marcos's share was $5 million toward the promotion, $4.5 million to Ali, the rest to Frazier...He was a cool customer sitting there in his white barong, made of pineapple fiber, with a jutting pompadour and a face like a folk art engraving. It was all rather boilerplate masquerade, a show, an interview done at the request of the home office. Behind the smiling coercion, though, were the mothers searching for missing children and those skeleton factories.

Marcos had a high opinion of himself as a sportsman and a man of fitness, and at age 56 considered himself the most athletic head of state in the world. An aide later boasted of it, too, so I asked him if I could watch him go through his routine. No problem, and two days later, standing around like a court idiot, I attended a Marcos workout, wishing I had kept my mouth shut. "I make my decisions early in the morning," he said, "while jogging in place in the bedroom." He played a fast game of pelota, moving like a jumping coffee bean. He did 10 laps in the pool, then, just when I thought he would ask for a game of chess or pick up a piece to demonstrate his famed sharpshooting, he was off to his golf course, trailed by a platoon of aides; several carried automatic rifles, another a holster and a .45 that belonged to Marcos. There were scattered claps to his reasonably good strokes. He was asked his preference in the fight. "Lady Imelda," he said, "is in love with Ali." He laughed; "She has a taste for the feminine in men. I'm partial to Frazier. There is a danger about him." I remarked on Ali's reception at the airport. "If he was Filipino," he said dryly, "I'd have to kill him. So popular." He then said: "That's a joke now, of course." A big bird, perhaps a buzzard, began to annoy him by dropping down uncannily for four or so holes, say 30 yards in front of his shot. Marcos suddenly requested his .45, then aiming, the muzzle flashed, the bird bounced. He pushed on, stepped over the bird without notice.

"Quite a wingspan," I noted.

"Not anymore," he said curtly.

Screwed again

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

SOME TIME last year the news that the Presidential Commission on Good Government intended to auction the alleged jewelry of Imelda Marcos (I'm saying "alleged" because I'm not sure if to this day 16 years after Edsa I it has managed to prove who this belongs to) appeared in the press. At that time I thought it would be a fabulous idea to hold an exhibit and let Filipinos know (a) where some of their money had gone (if true, of course); (b) what truly gorgeous work Buchellatti, Van Cleef and Arpels and Bulgari do since these pieces are marvelous works of art; (c) make the Filipino realize that hey, we're not poor after all—a fact that after endless repetitions from his officials, has him believing he's Asia's No. 1 mendicant and the poorest of the poor and only Mother Teresa and her nuns could possibly love him. (Well, okay, he's poor at the moment but only because he's been robbed blind and by guess who.)

Anyway, I toddled off to see Governor Rafael Buenaventura at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (I may or may not have been wearing pearls to look respectable and serious but I doubt it), being under the mistaken impression that the jewels were under his aegis. The good governor had no objections to the idea of exhibiting them in the basement of the Metropolitan Museum where the antique-excavated jewelry of the Bangko Sentral is kept but alas and alack the jewelry may be in the bank vaults but even he hadn't seen them. It turned out they were the responsibility of the PCGG so why didn't I write a letter to the PCGG?

Sure, I thought, why not? The people have a right to know and so on and so forth. (One thing I can tell you about American-influenced education is that it fills your head with all kinds of nonsense that turn out to be so much squat in real life.) So as president of the Heritage Conservation Society at the time I wrote a letter to Magtanggol Gunigundo of the PCGG, I explained the reasons and asked permission and stated that Buenaventura agreed and so on. I do recall that I even suggested that it could be a limited exhibit of a few hours if necessary. Needless to say the answer was a resounding "No." I no longer remember at this point what reasons the man gave for refusing to have them viewed by the public. Whatever. It was no go.

You have to understand that some 10 years or so ago some paintings supposedly of Imelda Marcos were also auctioned off without the majority of the public ever seeing them and certainly none of us ever finding out how much the sale realized or what happened to the money. If you want to get ornery about it, the public after 16 years is still totally, completely and absolutely in the dark about what companies, shares of stock, real estate, works of art and only God knows what else the PCGG has sequestered and what has happened to it. I believe at one point it sold a building in New York worth several million dollars and the government made the grand total of $2,000 after the lawyers' fees and sundry expenses were deducted. All I can tell you is that there has been no accounting and none of your ever-loving elected officials has ever bothered to protest in your name.

Now, this jewelry is interesting. First I heard about it was after Edsa I (the Georgian sterling silver in the Tito Teus mansion purportedly disappeared after Edsa II but no one has bothered to confirm or deny it. After all, it supposedly belongs to the poor wretched, long-suffering Filipinos and since what they don't know won't hurt them, why tell them?).

If you have access to the Net go to http://djl.net/jewels/ a webpage that belongs to a certain Diane Pollard who, together with her husband, was called in to photograph the canary yellow diamonds, the rubies and the emeralds, 60 pieces that a Greek jeweler/courier named Roumeliotes was allegedly trying to smuggle out of the country for Ms Marcos. Both he and Ms Marcos vigorously denied this so the treasure trove landed with the PCGG and I'm not sure if the Bureau of Customs isn't part custodian too. However, the PCGG has put a price tag of $5.3 million on the collection, according to Pollard, despite one solo 30-carat marquis-cut diamond set in platinum having a price tag of $1 million, not to mention a 50-carat emerald compact and matching 60-carat emerald pendant. Herein follows a sample inventory made by the Customs when the jewelry was seized and you judge for yourself.

1. One pair clip earrings in wg each with center blue sapphire (round) and 2 pieces marquis-cut (1 to 1.5 carats each) diamonds and 6 pieces pear-shaped diamond, each approximately 1 to 3 carats, crab-design earrings.

2. One-piece choker necklace, wg, diamond-studded with fancy-cut diamond (dangling) (25 pieces, all with one loose center diamond) and approximately 1,500 pieces small diamonds, totaling approximately 100 carats.

3. One-piece "centipede" choker yg setting, studded with round diamonds, 15 three-fourths long and approximately 515 pieces round diamonds.

4. One-piece choker necklace yg with 36 various-sized triangle (fancy-cut) diamonds, approximately 30 pieces pear-shaped diamonds, 52 marquis cut diamonds, 20 pieces round diamonds and 147 small round diamonds.

5. One pair dangling earrings with marking of Van Cleef & Arpels each with 5 pieces marquis-cut diamonds, with 10 pieces round diamonds, with one yellow icicle diamond (fancy-cut, approximately 3 carats) and one emerald green colored stone.

6. One-piece choker necklace with one heart-shaped pendant rose-cut diamond approximately 10 carats with 64 pieces rose-cut diamonds, each approximately 3 carats, each totaling 192 carats, studded with rubies and diamonds.

So, *mga kababayan*, eat your hearts out. Remember that there were 60 pieces. I've only listed six. Pollard's webpage may be the closest you're ever going to get to see what is rightfully yours.

THEY SAID

No clean war

"There's no clean war, despite the talk of precision bombing and what have you."

—Political science Prof. Walid Kazziha

Public opinion not prepared

"Generally, people are not in favor. The United States hasn't done its work preparing the stage in terms of public opinion...not as it was in 1990-1991 (Gulf War)."

—Political science Prof. Gehad Auda

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Law and evidence showed culpability

THIS refers to former Vice President Salvador H. Laurel's letter on the so-called Saguisag Committee. (PDI, 10/20/01) As chair of the panel that recommended that charges be filed against him and former Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno in the Centennial and Motorola investigations, respectively, I knew I would forever alienate two prominent families I owe a lot to, and admire, and always will. But, we had no choice, given the law and the evidence as we saw them.

Laurel gladly cooperated with us at the start; later, he sued us (now Sen. Francis Pangilinan, now Social Security System head Cora de la Paz, former Public Works Secretary Toto Estuar and former Justice Undersecretary Al Llorente and me) for damages. He could have stayed away, as former President Fidel Ramos and two other Salvadors, Secretary Enriquez and Secretary Escudero did. You cannot join the game and go into a tantrum and cry if you lose.

As National Centennial Commission chair, Laurel, as a public officer with responsibility to protect government funds, harmed the public interest, in our view. For one, he opened bids on Dec. 18, 1996 in his private law office; awarded the Freedom Ring contract after a brief presentation the following day sans benefit of a technical review and after some board members had left, not knowing that the award would be made on the spot; issued the Notice to Proceed on Dec. 23, 1996 which the awardee did not conform to; made substantial payments of P116.5 million on Dec. 24, 1996, P116.5 million on Dec. 27, 1996, P10 million on March 14, 1997 and P15 million on April 4, 1997, or the total amount of P258 million, without the benefit of any formal contract. This belated contract contained provisions that were different from, and more onerous to the government, than those specified in the Notice to Proceed. Having paid out so much before a formal contract could be signed, the government lost any bargaining leverage it would otherwise have had in negotiating at arm's length, if not from a position of strength.

This is no way to handle public money. A Laurel accounts, not sues, for something the Senate, the Ombudsman and our panel agreed on.—**R.A.V. SAGUISAG, 4045 Bigasan St., Palanan, Makati City**

How to save the rice terraces

TO SUPPORT the Department of Tourism's program urging us to see the Philippines first before any other country, I visited the Ifugao mountains in the north.

The rice terraces in Banaue we once upon a time loved to consider as the eighth wonder of the world is indeed in a very sad state of neglect. The crudely constructed commercial buildings surrounding the area are the very first sights that greet the arriving tourists. Visitors have difficulty finding a place that will give them a better view of the terraces because of these ugly structures around the area.

As a dollar earner for the country, the national government through the Department of Agriculture and in coordination with the natives of Banaue, should do the necessary repairs of the rice paddies and surrounding areas that make up the terraces. The agriculture department should hire the residents of the barangays in the area whose main functions would be not just to maintain the present terraces but also to make additional field bonds and brick paddies in the adjoining areas. Giving regular employment to the Ifugaos who are the direct descendants of the makers of the famous Banaue rice terraces and the government buying their produce will prevent these natives from seeking other means of livelihood in other places. Some of them are now even seen in Metro Manila's streets

As the daughter of a farmer who had some experience in rice production in Leyte during my younger days, I find working in the rice fields exciting and challenging. I'm sure the natives of Banaue share the same feelings.

And to increase tourist interest in the place, those existing crude structures cluttering up the view should be removed. A viewing deck complete with clean comfort rooms and comfortable chairs should be built. Courteous receptionists should at all times be present.

If these things are done, Secretary Richard Gordon will realize his dream of making the Philippines No. 1 on the list of tourist destinations.—**CONCHITA C. CONFESOR, GSIS Tacloban branch office, Tacloban City, Leyte**

We already have a national agenda for productivity

LETTERS

JOSEPHUS Jimenez is correct when he said in his column (PDI, 10/26/01) that the wage board is focusing its efforts on wage formulations, while ignoring the "productivity side of its twin thrusts." Except on one thing—the board's failure to formulate "a national agenda to improve the overall performance of our business via productivity enhancing mechanisms."

That's my beef! I wish to point out that there is no need for the board to create such "national agenda" as there's already an existing National Action Agenda for Productivity (NAAP) that was created under Executive Order 395. This 1997 Ramos decree created the Philippine Council for Productivity (PCP) tasked to oversee the implementation of the NAAP. A major part of the PCP is the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) which has the administrative supervision over all regional wage boards.

What I'm saying is that we've enough of those laws, decrees and national agenda to stimulate the country's labor productivity, the lowest in the region for the period 1990-1999. We cannot deny this, as it is recorded in the 40th anniversary report of the Asian Productivity Organization, released publicly (and internationally) in Singapore last Oct. 2, on the occasion of the International Productivity Conference 2001. Obviously, we need more than laws, decrees and national agenda to "beat" the likes of Fiji, the second lowest in the region.

The wage board can readily fulfill its twin thrusts of wage and productivity as it is already backed up by those basic and enabling laws. All it has to do is move and to move as fast as it can just like one Singaporean taxi driver (according to Trade and Industry executive director Virgilio Fulgencio) who can converse well on the topic of the Pareto chart, brainstorming and other kaizen problem-solving tools.—**REYLITO A. H. ELBO, chief strategist, Deming Management Systems, 6/F L.V. Locsin Bldg., Ayala Avenue, Makati City**

Relief of anti-drug team deserves serious probe

I SHARE the concerns raised by Marikina Vice Mayor Marion Andres considering that our city has a very active and productive anti-drug campaign. What happened to Sr. Insp. Ramchrisen V. Haveria, former chief of the Drug Enforcement Unit of the Marikina Police Department and to some of his men has to be seriously investigated. The manner by which they were relieved from duty appears to be shot with holes.

There is reason for concern since those men have a good reputation insofar as doing their job is concerned. Moreover, if not addressed properly, what they went through will not only cause demoralization within the local police force but worse, may embolden the drug pushers to continue with their illicit activities.

I would like to see serious efforts to ferret out the truth and the full force of the law applied on whoever is really at fault or needs to be prosecuted.

In this light, I also share his request for your newspaper to help us in our relentless campaign to free Marikina City from the drug menace.—**REP. DEL DE GUZMAN, Marikina City**

The SSS concept of pensions

THIS is in response to the letter of Amelia Gloria (PDI, 10/9/01) concerning her request for an increase in her monthly pension.

The Social Security System pension is usually more than the amount of the member's total contributions. But it is designed to replace only part of the income lost after retirement.

Since 1973, the SSS has increased the minimum pension a total of 14 times and has implemented 22 across-the-board increases ranging from 5 to 50 percent.

The SSS administers a social insurance program. The contributions of members are pooled. It adheres to the concept wherein the rich subsidizes the poor, the healthy subsidizes the sick and the young subsidizes the old.

The SSS is exploring ways to improve its financial position to support benefit increases. It has intensified its collection efforts and rationalized its investment strategies to enhance its income and has optimized use of resources to generate savings.

Rest assured, an increase would be considered after the financial position of the SSS improves and reforms are implemented.—**JOEL P. PALACIOS, assistant vice president, Media Affairs Department, Social Security System, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City**

PPSTA loans to resume

THIS is in response to a letter (PDI, 10/18/01) regarding some policies of the Philippine Public School Teachers Association (PPSTA).

A directive suspending the grant of loan credits to public elementary and secondary school teachers nationwide from private lending institutions caused anxieties to many who crowded our premises daily. Many private lending institutions stopped operations, thus unusually increasing the loan applicants from its members resulting to increased cash flow. After the recent elections, a new set of association officers will soon sit and as is customary, an inventory of all financial transactions and loan credit programs, assets and liabilities is ongoing for presentation to the new board of directors. These led us to temporarily suspend the grant of a loan credit worth P10,000 to teacher-members but in due time, we shall resume normal operations. The loan amounting to P5,000 is granted as usual.—**J. GORDIT SINGH, public affairs consultant, Philippine Public School Teachers Association, 245 Banawe Street, Quezon City**

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The WORLD
LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

US bombers score new hits

AFGHAN civilians commute on the "Kabul Highway" linking the Afghan capital to the north during a rainy day near Charikar about 50 km north of Kabul Nov. 1. REUTERS

KABUL—Intense bombing of Taliban positions in northern Afghanistan resumed Friday as the Afghan capital awoke worried about the impact of its latest attack.

An American B-52 bomber was seen over the Shomali plain and Taliban positions about 50 km north of Kabul early Friday.

The Stratofortress dropped a wave of bombs on a hill occupied by the Taliban, that had already been hit two days ago. A huge cloud of black smoke came up from the New Road, one of two key roads leading to Kabul.

Other bombs fell on the same target in later sweeps.

A huge explosion rocked the Afghan capital Kabul late Thursday as US planes launched new air raids, residents said. But it was impossible to check damage or casualties because of a curfew imposed by the Taliban in the capital.

Pakistan, meanwhile, was at the center of a new wave of diplomatic activity as the French, Saudi Arabian and Greek foreign ministers held talks in Islamabad on the anti-terrorism campaign.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal arrived on what was called an urgent and unexpected visit late Thursday for talks with President Pervez Musharraf.

No details were given but it was his second visit in a week and he said there would be many more.

French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine and Greece's George A. Papandreou were also to meet Musharraf on Friday.

Pakistan is a key member of the international coalition because of its frontline position. But he faces domestic pressure in the overwhelmingly Muslim nation over the US strikes.

Accused terrorist leader Osama bin Laden reportedly urged Muslims in Pakistan to "confront the crusade against Islam" in a statement broadcast Thursday by the Arab satellite TV channel Al-Jazeera.

Bin Laden accused Pakistan's government of "standing under the banner of the Cross while Muslims are being slaughtered in Afghanistan."

Al-Jazeera said it obtained a copy of the statement carrying a signature which was "the same signature which appeared in a previous statement" by the Afghan-based Islamist militant.

The Taliban meanwhile welcomed reinforcements from neighboring Pakistan Thursday and claimed to have shot down an unidentified American plane.

Witnesses on the border said about 1,000 Pakistani tribesmen had crossed into Afghanistan on 50 vehicles and were met on the other side by the Taliban. *AFP*

Rumsfeld: More US commandos to infiltrate Afghanistan

WASHINGTON—Hundreds more US special forces troops are ready to infiltrate Afghanistan and put more pressure on the Taliban militia that shelters Osama bin Laden, US Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said.

Problems including bad weather and heavy fire at a landing area have prevented some of the US teams from entering Afghanistan recently, Rumsfeld said Thursday.

"We have a number of teams cocked and ready to go," he told a Pentagon news conference on the 26th day of US bombing. "It's just a matter of having the right kind of equipment to get them there in the landing zones... where it's possible to get in and get out, and we expect that to happen."

The defense secretary mentioned no specific number of troops, but said he hoped to triple or quadruple the current number of special forces in Afghanistan, which totals between 100 and 200. Rumsfeld said the extra troops will help the United States improve its bombing campaign by pinpointing targets and coordinating with forces opposing the Taliban.

He said the plan includes placing US troops with a wider ring of rebel forces, in both northern and southern Afghanistan. The United States also is supplying rebels with ammunition and arms "as fast as we can" once liaison forces make sure the supplies will be used and not sold, he said.

Rumsfeld revealed that one recent attempt to land US special operations troops was called off after the helicopter-borne troops encountered ground fire, presumably from the Taliban militia that controls most of Afghanistan.

Responding to reporters' questions about a US attack Oct. 22 of an Afghan village called Chukar, about 40 km north of Kandahar, Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said the village was a Taliban encampment populated by al-Qaida "collaborators" and therefore deemed a legitimate military target. It was attacked at night by an Air Force AC-130 gunship.

Rumsfeld plans to leave Friday for Russia and several countries near Afghanistan. He is scheduled to meet with his Russian counterpart, Sergei Ivanov, in Moscow on Saturday.

Rumsfeld declined to identify the other countries he would visit.

Before the US bombing campaign began Oct. 7, he visited Uzbekistan, Egypt, Oman, Turkey and Saudi Arabia. *AP*

No quick end to Afghan war, US stresses

WASHINGTON—The war in Afghanistan will be long; US officials keep stressing, and the reasons are clear: The mission, more of a dragnet for terrorists than a conventional war, is difficult. The helpers, the northern alliance, have fewer guns and fighters and less equipment than the enemy.

And the key to an endgame—finding Osama bin Laden—takes extraordinary intelligence information that America so far has lacked.

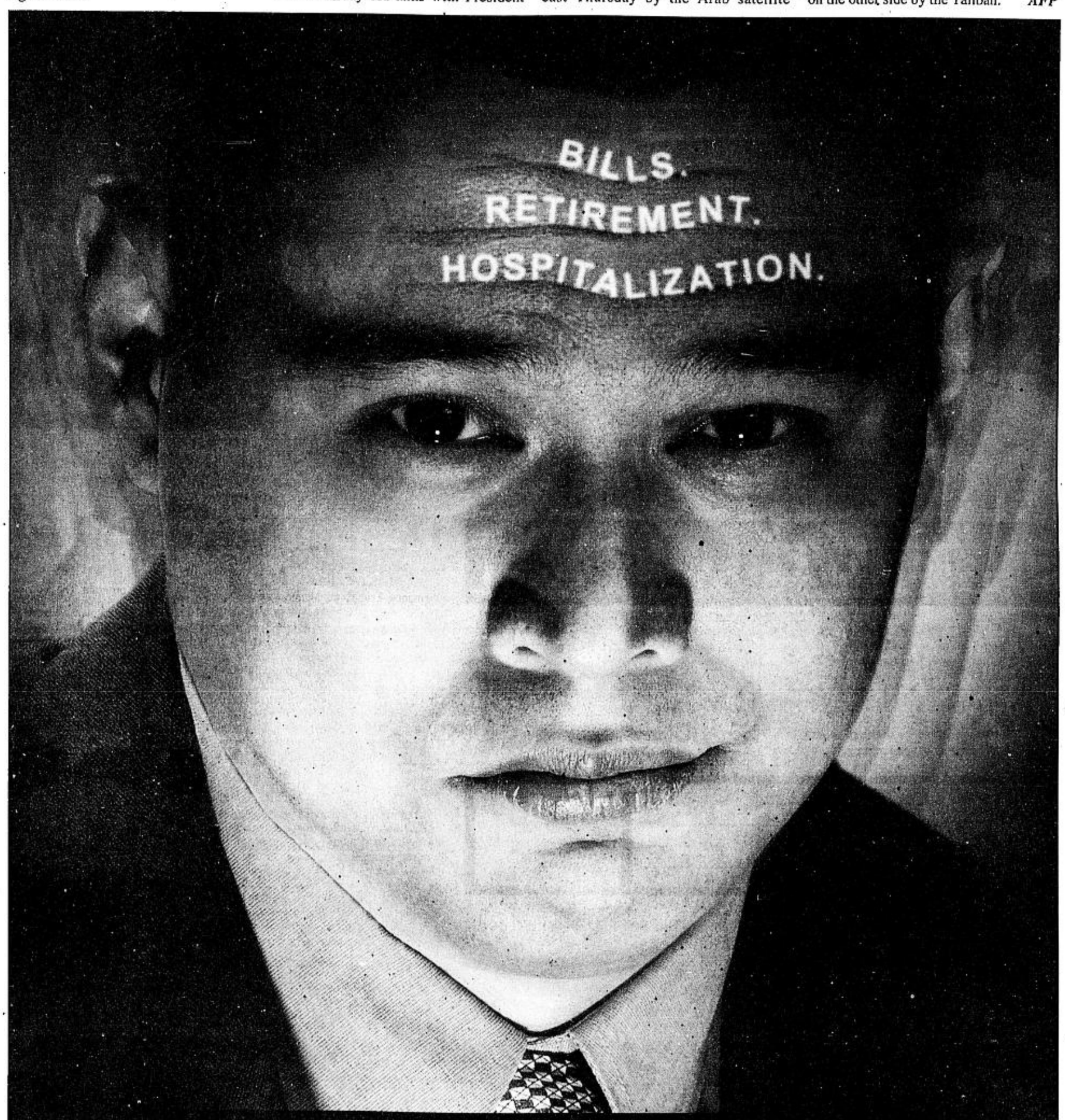
"We're still in the very, very early stages of this conflict," US Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Thursday. He noted that the World Trade Center ruins are still smoldering and said the United States didn't bomb Japan in retaliation for Pearl Harbor until four months later.

A few world leaders have called for a quick end to the conflict.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said continued fighting will hamper efforts to deliver food and other humanitarian supplies to starving Afghans.

"We would want to see this whole military operation ended as soon as possible, particularly the air action, so that we can begin to move in our supplies," Annan said this week.

In addition, some of America's Muslim allies, such as Pakistan, have said they would like the strikes on Afghanistan to end before the mid-November start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. *AP*



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REUTERS

PALESTINIAN President Yasser Arafat (left) welcomes British Prime Minister Tony Blair before their meeting at Arafat's office in Gaza Nov.1.

Blair urges peace amid new violence

GAZA CITY—British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Thursday ended a grueling Middle East tour with appeals to Israel and the Palestinians to end more than a year of bloodshed, even as Israel assassinated two more suspected Palestinian militants.

Blair, who met Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in Jerusalem before dashing south to meet Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Gaza City, called on both sides to end a year's violence that has left almost 950 people dead.

"This cycle of bloodshed has to stop," Blair said.

But while his visit drew a promise from Sharon to set up a negotiating team to prepare for peace talks once a ceasefire is underway, Blair witnessed mostly recriminations from both sides.

Sharon, who expressed his full support for the US anti-terror coalition, told Blair bluntly he would not give an inch on security, as his helicopters blew up two members of the radical Hamas movement.

"I have always said that for true peace, the state of Israel is ready to make painful compromises but there will be no compromise when it comes to the safety and security of the citizens of the state of Israel," Sharon told a joint press conference in Jerusalem.

"We will continue to apply our right to self-defense," he added.

Sharon later told his hawkish Likud party that Israel would press on with its policy of killing Palestinian militants.

"The army's commando actions will be pursued against terrorism," Sharon declared.

"In this war, we must act and not talk."

Earlier, Blair urged Israel to keep its security measures within the boundaries of international law, but said he understood the "pressure" Sharon and the Israeli people were under in the face of continued suicide bombings and attacks by Palestinian extremists.

In Gaza, Blair repeated his formula outlined two weeks ago when Arafat visited London that a viable Palestinian state must be created while Israel's security is assured.

For his part, Arafat demonstrated his support for the global anti-terror coalition by immediately condemning Islamic militant Osama bin Laden's call for Pakistani Muslims to resist the US-led strikes on Afghanistan.

"We cannot accept from bin Laden any such dangerous talk against any Islamic country," Arafat said.

As for Israel's demand that the Palestinian Authority arrest the men who killed Israeli Tourism Minister Rehavam Zeevi on Oct. 17, Arafat was suitably vague.

"We tried our best to arrest them but couldn't," Arafat said, adding that his police had only recently identified the assassins despite shared Israeli intelligence reports.

Blair had set off this week on an ambitious tour of Arab states to whip up support for the air strikes on Afghanistan, which the United States has escalated to include carpet bombing of the front lines of the hardline Taliban forces.

But his message was given short shrift Wednesday by Syria's Assad, who pointed to the West's tolerance of "Israeli terrorism" against the Palestinians.

Referring to the strikes on Afghanistan, Assad also said "we cannot accept the killing of hundreds of innocent civilians every day."

The British press described Blair's treatment at the hands of the Syrian leader as a humiliating setback for the anti-terror coalition.

Palestinian officials had said before the visit they were hoping for a "historic declaration, historic promise to put the Palestinians and Israelis on an equal footing."

However, Blair merely repeated his call for both sides to stop killing each other and find a way back to the negotiating table, sooner rather than later. *AFP*

Terrorism expected to dominate Asean summit with China, Japan

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN—Terrorism is expected to dominate a summit of leaders from almost half of Asia, including China and Southeast Asian countries that are home to more than one-fifth of the world's Muslims.

Senior officials began gathering Friday in Brunei for talks paving the way for the annual summit of leaders of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Leaders from China, Japan and South Korea will travel to the tiny, oil-rich sultanate for separate talks with the Southeast Asians during the summit next Monday and Tuesday.

Terrorist threats in some countries and economic fallout on export-dependent economies, caused by a global slowdown deepening in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, will top the agenda.

"Everybody is affected by the impact of the terrorist attacks," said Rodolfo Severino, the association's secretary-general. "All the Asean nations realize more than ever before that terrorism is something we have to cooperate against."

In a statement this week, the Brunei organizers hinted that the leaders may broaden Asean's scope, saying they were expected to "consider moving beyond free-trade commitments with far-reaching cooperation in many areas."

While Asean has in the past touched on issues such as transnational crime, the environment and health, it is primarily an economic forum and maintains a steadfast policy of noninterference in member states' internal affairs.

Earlier this month, Brunei's Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, chairman of the Asean Regional Forum, condemned the attacks in the United States on behalf of the group and vowed that member governments would take "all necessary and available means" to capture and punish those responsible and to prevent future terrorist attacks.

A few days later, US and British forces began their bombardment of Afghanistan to destroy the network of alleged terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden and the country's Taliban rulers, accused by the United States of harboring terrorists.

Indonesia and Malaysia—predominantly Muslim countries which respectively are Asean's largest and one of its richest members—have denounced terrorism but have urged a halt to the US-led strikes on Afghanistan, saying innocent civilians have been the main victims.

Large protests against the are strikes have been held outside US embassies in Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta. More than 220 million Muslims live in Southeast Asia, mostly in Indonesia and Malaysia, but also in Brunei and the southern Philippines.

Muslim concerns influenced the outcome of a Pacific Rim leaders summit in China two weeks ago: leaders supported the international fight against terrorism but stopped short of endorsing the strikes on Afghanistan.

Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim country, and Malaysia wield far more influence in Asean than in the Pacific Rim forum.

The Philippines, which has accepted US military help to quell Abu Sayyaf, a hostage-taking rebel group with links to bin Laden's organization, is perhaps America's strongest ally in the region.

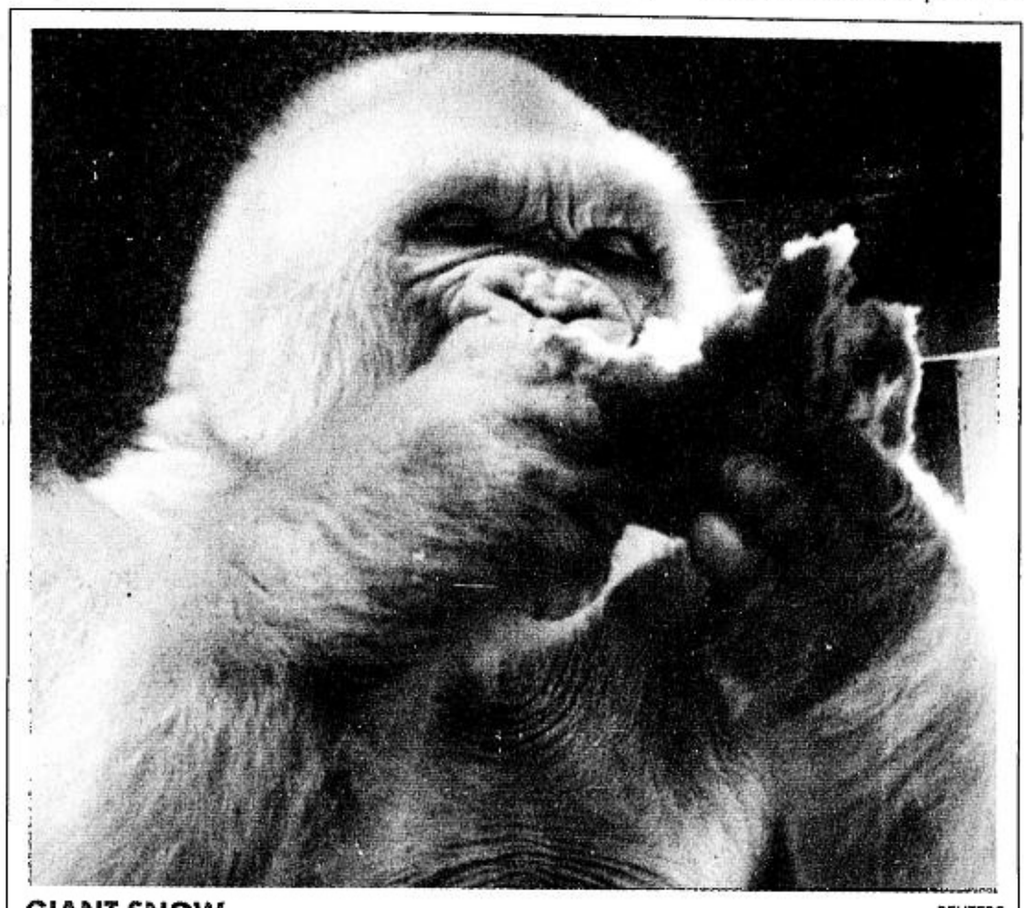
Philippines President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to raise her plan for an agreement with Indonesia and Malaysia to fight terror through strengthened intelligence and communications exchanges.

Leaders will also discuss the economic slowdown, which has pushed some countries, such as Singapore, into recession and threatens most others.

The summit comes just before a Nov. 9 meeting of the World Trade Organization in Doha, Qatar, the biggest push to launch a new round of global trade talks since the last attempt collapsed in Seattle in 1999.

Separately from global pacts, some Asean members want integration of their regional economies into a free-trade area to be accelerated in the wake of the terrorist crisis, while others are advising caution.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said earlier this month that Asean should keep an open mind about its planned free trade zone in light of the rapidly changing conditions. *AP*



GIANT SNOW REUTERS

Albino gorilla "Floquet de Nue" (Little Snow Flake) eats his 35th birthday cake in the Barcelona zoo Nov. 1. The gorilla was brought to the zoo as an infant from equatorial Guinea.

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Deal in Microsoft case uncertain

WASHINGTON—A settlement in the antitrust case pitting the US Justice Department against Microsoft hung in the balance Thursday amid reports that 18 states involved in the case wanted more time to review the deal.

The parties were expected to present a deal to US District Court Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly on Friday, and US Attorney General John Ashcroft was slated to announce news of the settlement in a press conference.

But the Wall Street Journal reported late Thursday that the 18 states that are coplaintiffs in the government's case against the software giant have asked for more time to consider the draft settlement.

Their attorney would ask the judge for more time to file the states' response, with a deadline expected sometime next week, the report said, quoting a source familiar with the negotiations.

State officials could not be reached for comment on the report. Kollar-Kotelly had set Friday as the deadline for mediated talks.

Approval of the deal by the states is necessary for the case to be resolved. If they refuse, the case, first launched in 1998, could go back to court.

The Justice Department said late Thursday that Ashcroft would hold a press conference at 10 a.m. Friday (1500 GMT) on an "antitrust matter," without giving further detail.

Published reports said Thursday that a tentative agreement would not require Microsoft to disclose key technical data or redesign its Windows software, but would give computer makers more power to manage their desktop displays.

Government and company officials declined to comment on the reports, but analysts said it could lift the cloud from over the world's biggest software firm, giving a boost to both Microsoft and the entire technology industry.

Nicholas Economides, an antitrust expert at New York University, said the reports indicate "a good settlement because it deals with the problems in the way that the court of appeals envisaged."

A US appeals court in June upheld a lower court finding that Microsoft acted as an illegal monopoly but overturned an order that the company should be broken up. The appellate judges also ordered that a new judge be named.

On Sept. 6, the US government abandoned its demand for a breakup of the software titan, saying it was hoping to speed up a resolution of the case.

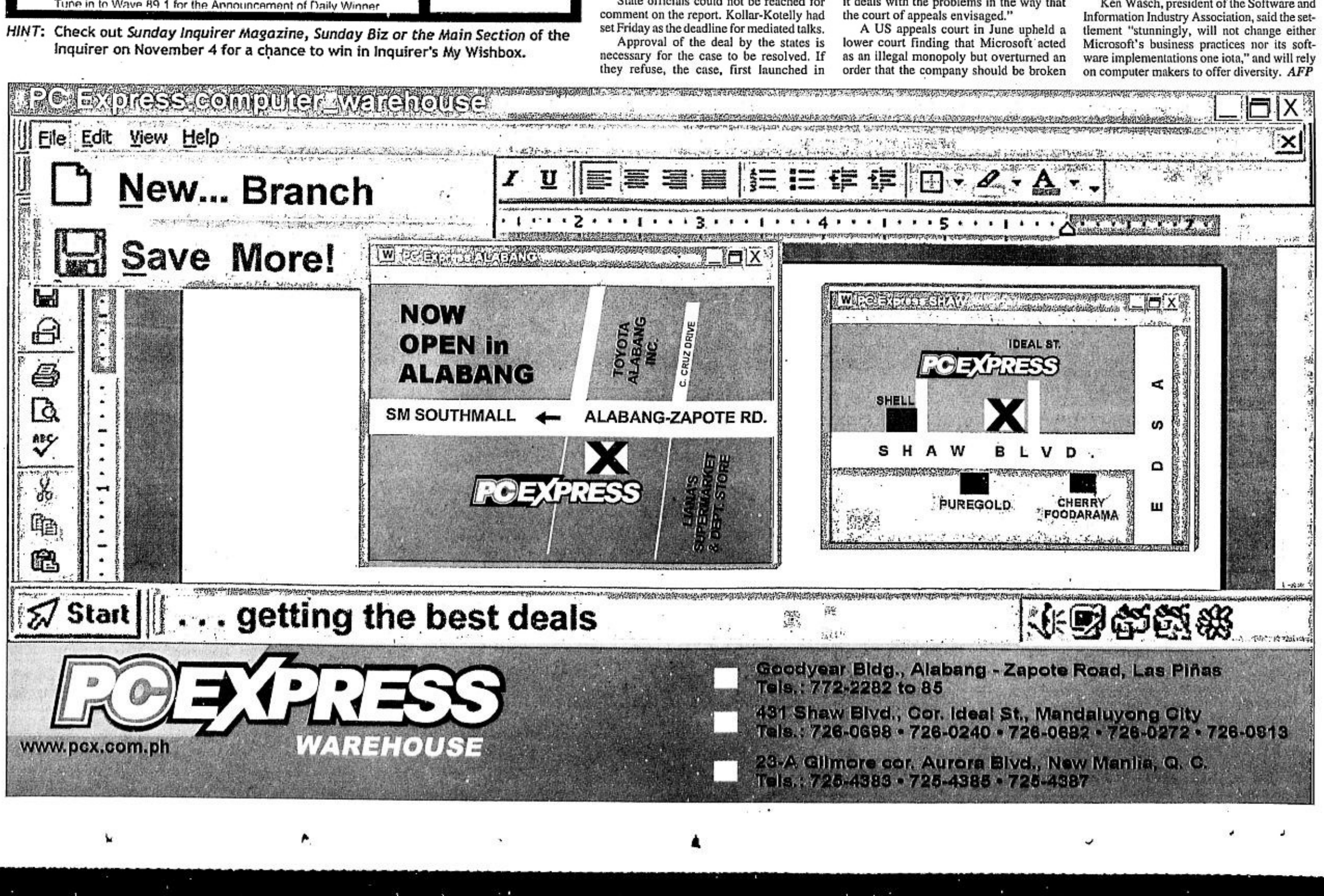
Economides said the reports indicate that the settlement would include "specific ways to ensure that Microsoft does not abuse its monopoly position," reflecting the more limited scope of the appeals court decision.

"The remedy has to be based on (the appeals court ruling)," he added. "It should not punish Microsoft for things it was not found guilty of."

Economides added that the settlement "would also have a good effect on the rest of the industry by removing the uncertainty that the antitrust case has created."

But some Microsoft critics said the settlement would be too soft on Microsoft and called on the government to reject it.

Ken Wasch, president of the Software and Information Industry Association, said the settlement "stunningly, will not change either Microsoft's business practices nor its software implementations one iota," and will rely on computer makers to offer diversity. *AFP*



Northern Luzon Bureau
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No . (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

Mindanao Bureau
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
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E-mail: pdiminda@dv.weblinq.com

MILF bombing plot foiled

A military concoction, says rebel spokesperson Eid Kabalu

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The military yesterday said it has foiled an attempt by members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to topple down transmission line towers of the state-owned National Power Corp. in Lanao del Sur and Bukidnon on All Saints Day.

Brig. Gen. Santiago Prejido, commander of the Army's 401st Brigade, said soldiers under the 58th Infantry Battalion uncovered the MILF's plan after a raid in Barangay Damalama, Tagoloan Dos, Lanao del Sur on Thursday.

Two rebels, belonging to the MILF's 2nd Battalion, were killed in an encounter that was triggered by the raid.

However, Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson said the military was concocting stories aimed at disturbing the already shaky peace negotiations.

"They must be running out of things to do anymore because of the peace negotiations, so here they go again," Kabalu said.

He said the military has since been trying to connect all sorts of incidents in Mindanao, including the kidnapping of Italian priest Giuseppe Pierantoni, with the MILF.

"I really salute them for their rich imagination," Kabalu said.

Prejido said they recovered documents containing the plot to bomb at least eight towers in Marawi City, Digsaan, Ramain and Bubong towns in Lanao del Sur and two other structures in Kibawe, Bukidnon.

The documents, he said, are being studied thoroughly because it contained things "of intelligence value."

Maj. Johnny Macanas, 4th Infantry Division spokesperson, said that the planned bombings were aimed at sowing panic among residents of Mindanao, as it would render the island without power.

Macanas said that after the raid, soldiers inspected the targeted towers and discovered that the suspects have already managed to remove some of the towers' bolts and braces.

Butch Enerio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

THE TOMB of Dominador Canja literally stands out at the public cemetery in Jordan town, Guimaras.

PHOTO BY NESTOR BURGOS JR., PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

Upright tomb stands out in Jordan town cemetery

BY NESTOR P. BURGOS JR.
PDI Visayas Bureau

JORDAN, Guimaras—Among thousands of white-painted tombs at the Jordan Public Cemetery, the tomb of Dominador Canja stands out. Literally.

Lolo Dodong, as he was fondly called, was buried in a six-foot high vertical tomb at the center of the hilly cemetery.

The tomb is flanked by the graves of other members of the Canja clan including Lolo Dodong's wife, Blandina who died in 1997 and his son and daughter.

Ofelia Canja, 54, Lolo Dodong's eldest surviving child, said it was her father's wish to be buried this way. "He was committed to the idea despite my opposition," said Ofelia, the eighth among a dozen siblings.

Lolo Dodong, the eldest of six siblings, was considered a disciplinarian by his children. He wanted to become a lawyer but only managed to finish Grade 7.

Policeman

He became a policeman for two years in Nueva Valencia town and later went into selling mangoes and other fruits, which he brought from Guimaras to Iloilo. He was also active in politics especially during the elections as a local leader of the Liberal Party.

Standing at 5'6", medium-built, and "good-looking," he was known in his neighborhood to be frivolous with good-looking women.

At 56, he suffered a heart attack on June 2, 1961 that paralyzed the left side of his body.

He was bedridden for a year until he managed to walk slowly inside their house in Sitio Sal-agan, at the town's *poblacion*. But frequent bouts of asthma and pneumonia confined his movement.

His sickness failed to dampen Lolo Dodong's fondness for beautiful women. Neighbors passing their house would always see Lolo Dodong at the window, waving and smiling at them.

Wish

In 1976, 15 years after his heart attack, Lolo Dodong told his daughter that he wished to be buried in their front yard.

Ofelia begged him to ask for another wish because she was scared of the thought of having a grave in front of their house.

Several months later, he asked his close friend and then parish priest Rev. Fr. Melecio Rubrico to convince Ofelia to bury his remains upright. He made the request after the priest assured him he would not be violating any Christian belief or law.

Lolo Dodong had said that if there was indeed life after death, he would be ready to meet Christ in that position.

He also joked that after being confined to their house for 20 years, he wanted to see beautiful women passing by his grave.

"He even wanted the front cover of his tomb to be made of glass so that he could see them and wave at them," Ofelia said.

Hesitation

Ofelia was hesitant to grant her father's wish. "I had the terrible thought that his remains would fall out."

But Lolo Dodong had made up his mind. He asked money from Ofelia from her monthly pay to save for the construction of his tomb. Ofelia, who still opposed the idea, would loan the money whenever it reached a large amount.

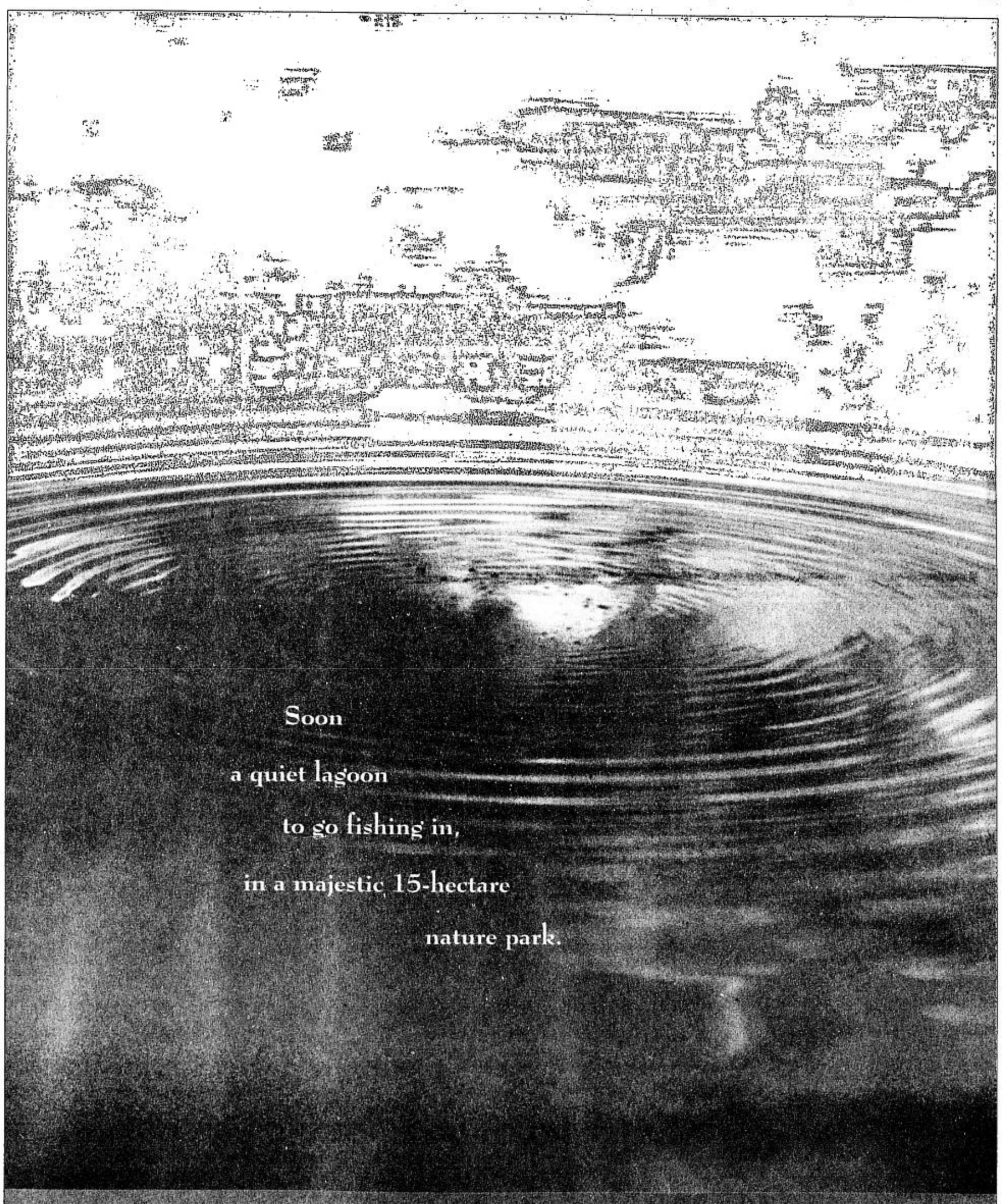
At his deathbed, Lolo Dodong finally got the assurance from his nephew, Ely Canja, that his wish would be granted. The next day, on Aug. 31, 1981, Lolo Dodong died at the age of 84.

Two-inch wide strips of elastic cloth bound his chest, knees and ankles before his coffin was placed inside the tomb.

For Lolo Dodong's family, it was their last gift to show their love for him. Neighbors and friends, who had long known about his wish, were also glad that Lolo Dodong got his wish.

For 20 years now, curious visitors still flock to the tomb standing upright like a sentinel over a sea of graves.

In the tombstone is Lolo Dodong's fulfilled wish: "Buried standing."



WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 23°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 27° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 19°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 22°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 28° Lo 20°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Davao	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research/11/02/01

ROUNDUP

Exec survives crash

TARLAC CITY—The deputy chief of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration survived a car crash on Sunday in Barangay San Roque here that left one dead and two others injured. Police said lawyer Delmer Cruz and his driver Faustino Aquindo were on their way to Manila aboard a Mitsubishi Lancer when a northbound Toyota Corolla, driven by Raymund Fereras, smashed into their car. After the smashup, a southbound Besta van, driven by Michael Fernandez, bumped the rear of Cruz's car. Fereras, a resident of Barangay San Sebastian here, was killed instantly. Cruz, Aquindo and Fernandez were injured in the mishap.

Russell Arador, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Hostage taker killed

BACACAY, Albay—Police shot dead a former overseas contract worker who took an old man hostage in Barangay Bonga here on Tuesday. Police said the suspect, Ireneo Mirafuentes, 48, held hostage Pio Bejo Sr., 85, a resident here. Police negotiated for Bejo's release for two hours, and fired a warning shot when Mirafuentes started to slash Bejo's neck. They were forced to shoot him when he turned to the police wielding his bolo. Mirafuentes died on the spot, while Bejo died at the Ziga Memorial District Hospital in Tabaco due to blood loss.

Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Shabu seized in Quezon

LUCENA CITY—The Quezon police confiscated at least 50 grams of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) worth about P100,000 during a buy-bust operation Monday at the Grand Central Terminal Complex in Barangay Ilayang Dupay here. The arrested suspects were identified as Akmad Sansalana, 49, and his brother Mikko, 22, residents of Lower Bicutan, Taguig, and a 14-year-old girl from Biñan, Laguna. Police discovered the shabu hidden inside a box with P17,000 in bills. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

3 die in road crash

CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City—Three persons died and four others were seriously injured when a speeding Isuzu Highlander smashed into a fully loaded tricycle along the Maharlika Highway in Calauag, Quezon on Tuesday. Police said three of the tricycle passengers, all residents of Barangay Madlangdoongan, Calauag died on the spot. The tricycle driver, Ronilo Sambahon, of the same barangay and another tricycle passenger, as well as the Isuzu driver, Armando Madriano of Libon, Albay, and his lone passenger suffered serious injuries. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Drug syndicate busted

MAUBAN, Quezon—Police here arrested several suspected drug pushers during a raid on the house of Harold Bantugan in Sitio Francisco, Barangay Soledad here. One of the arrested suspects, a certain Paulino Villegas alias "Rambo," yielded eight tea bags of marijuana, a police ID and P2,000 in cash. Police also found a marijuana brick weighing at least 200 grams, 29 tea bags of marijuana and stalks. At least four other suspects, who were still unidentified, were also arrested during the raid. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

663 get jobs

LUCENA CITY—The City Public Employment Service Office facilitated jobs for at least 663 applicants here during the period August 2000 to July this year. City Peso manager Alexis Alemania said among the firms which hired new workers were electronics companies based in Sta. Rosa and Cabuyao, Laguna, and Lipa City. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Village chief killed

DAVAO CITY—Suspected communist rebels shot to death a barangay chair in Paquibato District here Monday night. Lt. Col. Eduardo del Rosario, chief of the 73rd Infantry Battalion, identified the victim as Rogelio Bernal, of Mabuhay, Paquibato. Del Rosario said the killing happened in front of the victim's screaming wife. Another barangay leader, identified as Tomas Maanib, has also been reported missing.

Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

All Souls' Day fire

LUCENA CITY—Fire gutted two houses and razed about hundreds of thousand pesos worth of property in Barangay 9 here. A lighted candle supposedly offered for the peace of the dead reportedly caused the fire that also rendered at least four families homeless. Initial police investigation showed that the fire started on the second floor of a two-story house on Claro M. Recto Street.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CONTAMINATION, GREENPEACE CALLS IT

Group releases longer GMO list

LUCENA CITY—The contamination with genetically-modified organisms of food items sold in Philippine stores and supermarkets is even more widespread than has been previously anticipated, the environmental group Greenpeace said.

Bea Baconguis, genetic campaigner for Greenpeace Southeast Asia, said the new tests conducted for Greenpeace by a Hong Kong-based laboratory, the DNA Chips Ltd., confirmed the presence of GMOs in more popular food items.

"Fourteen products—including popular brands of soups, hotdogs and snack items—tested positive for GMOs, in addition to the number of baby and processed food items earlier confirmed by Greenpeace to contain genetically altered ingredients," Baconguis said in a statement furnished the INQUIRER.

The Greenpeace official said the tainted products mostly sold in the local market include Knorr Crab and Corn soup, Maggi Cup Chicken Arroz Caldo, Campbell's Chicken with Rice, Ensure Vanilla, Tostillas Smokey BBQ Flavor, Kornets Natural Flavor, Quick Chow Instant Pancit, Purefoods Chicken Nuggets, Purefoods Chorizos Bilbao, CDO Corned Beef, Swift's Cheesy Hotdog, Campo Carne Chicken Hotdog, Hormel Vienna Sausage, and Swift Meat Loaf Embotido style.

"These results are truly shocking inasmuch as they prove that the contamination of our food supply is even more extensive than we thought. The absence of a strong mandatory labeling policy has unfortunately led to an alarming proliferation of GMO-tainted food products in the market," Baconguis said.

To combat the proliferation of GMO contaminated goods, the group launched a "True Food Consumer Guide" to help Filipino consumers avoid food products containing GMOs, she said.

"This is to enable Filipino consumers to make informed decisions regarding the food they eat," she added.

Baconquis said products that allegedly contain GMOs and whose manufacturers admit using genetically engineered (GE) ingredients are classified under the "Black List," while those which tested negative and whose manufacturers proclaim a GE-free policy are placed under the "Green List."

She added that food items that proved negative at the time of the testing but whose manufacturers have no clear policy on the use of GE ingredients are put on the "Gray List."

The Greenpeace official said they intend to distribute the "guide" in various supermarkets and via its Internet website (www.greenpeacesoutheastasia.org).

The environmental activist said the list focuses on food made with ingredients that are commonly derived from genetically engineered crops.

"The most widely grown GE crops are soy, corn, cotton and canola," Baconguis said.

She disclosed that in the Philippines, GE foods are either imported as finished products or are locally produced with imported raw materials.

These include soya, corn, canola and cotton, which constitute 98 percent of all commercially grown GE crops.

About 95 percent of these crops are found in the United States, Canada and Argentina, Baconquis said.

"Since the Philippines imports huge amounts of soya and corn from the United States where genetic contamination is widespread, then the possibility of food contamination is very high," she added.

She admitted that the "guide" is not a comprehensive list.

However, Baconguis quickly emphasized that it offers a starting point for consumers who would like to exercise caution in their food choices.

"One only needs to understand that GMOs do not and will not occur naturally. Hence the effects of introducing exotic elements into the environment and in human diets remain unknown for the most part," added Baconguis.

According to the Greenpeace campaigner, doctors and scientists have warned that these kinds of food may not be safe for the diet or the environment.

"There has been no convincing and conclusive evidence establishing their safety for human consumption," she stressed. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

RELIGIOUS PAUSE CHARLIE SACEDA

Government soldiers take a break from war to answer to their spiritual needs and hear Mass at a Marine detachment in Sumisip, Basilan.

Shootout between cops kill 1, hurts 2

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—A policeman died and two fellow officers were wounded in a shootout about 3 p.m. Thursday in Barangay Bagumbayan here.

SPO3 Nicanor Avendaño of the provincial police investigation section identified the slain police officer as SPO4 Reynaldo Laborde, 51, and the suspect as PO2 Aldrin Sulit, both of the Sta. Cruz police.

Avendaño told the INQUIRER that a heated altercation between Laborde and Sulit took place near the gate of the Garden of Peace Cemetery and resulted in a shootout between the two.

This ended up in the killing of Laborde and the grave wounding of Sulit.

Another officer, SPO1 Angelito Joven, who attempted to pacify the two, was also hit in the arm.

Avendaño said Sulit and Joven were both detailed at the Bagumbayan Public Cemetery to ensure the peace and safety of the people visiting their dead, while Laborde was assigned at the nearby Philippine National Police "Blue Light" project post at the Patimbao portion of the national highway..

The investigator quoted Bagumbayan barangay captain Carding Hernandez, who witnessed the incident, as saying that at around 3 p.m., Nov. 1, Laborde, who was high in alcohol, arrived at the vicinity of the Garden of Peace where he and Sulit engaged in a heated argument.

Shortly after, according to Hernandez, Laborde fired the first shot at Sulit.

But Joven mediated by pacifying Laborde who shot him in the arm.

A shot fired by the responding Sulit hit Laborde fatally, causing his instant death. *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

DENR execs summoned on cyanide smuggling

DIPOLOG CITY—Two ranking environment officials in the Zamboanga Peninsula are in hot water for allegedly condoning the illegal operation of cyanide smugglers and at least 18 gold processing plants using the toxic substance in gold-rich Siocon town in Zamboanga del Norte.

Provincial board member Paulino Gudmalin said Maximo Dichoso, Western Mindanao regional environment executive director and Dean Apao, director of the mines and geosciences bureau, both protegees' of former environment secretary Antonio Cerilles, have been invited by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan to answer allegations that they are in cahoots with cyanide smugglers operating in the mining areas of Zamboanga Sibugay, Zamboanga del Sur and Zamboanga del Norte.

The gold processing plants in Zamboanga del Norte, which started operating two years ago, use the highly toxic cyanide in extracting gold, silver and copper according to Marcelino Gargar, provincial environment officer.

Gargar said that both Apao and Dichoso knew about the regular transport of cyanide to the mining area.

"However, nothing has been done about it," he said.

Gudmalin said the Sangguniang Panlalawigan is set to hear Dichoso and Apao's side on Nov. 19.

He said the two executives would also be asked why they have failed to implement an earlier order closing the gold processing plants.

The officials would also be given a chance to explain their failure to stop the supply of cyanide to the mining area in Barangay Tabayo in Siocon.

The use of cyanide in Siocon has greatly alarmed provincial officials because of a high possibility that the chemical would endanger the lives of residents near the Canatuan and Siocon rivers..

The INQUIRER learned that since August, many residents in the mining community have experienced stomachache, loose bowel movement, vomiting and headache.

Plants and tunnel workers who do not wear protective gears while working also complain of the same illnesses.

Gudmalin said he believes that the situation is already serious and must be acted upon immediately, especially on the issue of cyanide smuggling in Region 9. *Lullie Micabalo, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

MNLF faction also seeks postponement of polls

COTABATO CITY—The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) Council of 15 is seeking the postponement of the Nov. 26 elections in the expanded Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, claiming the elections will put the MNLF in a disadvantageous position.

The other faction of the MNLF, led by ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari, is also objecting to the elections, saying it would violate the 1996 peace agreement.

The Council of 15, in a resolution, said its objection to the elections is consistent with its stand when it objected to the holding of a plebiscite on Aug. 14. It was unheeded by the government.

The plebiscite expanded the composition of the ARMM from four to five provinces and one city regional autonomous set-up.

The resolution was signed by MNLF secretary general and Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema and MNLF vice chair Hatimil Hassan.

But it did not say when it wanted to have the elections held.

"Some provisions of the ARMM amendatory law (RA 9054) raised contradictions making the law defective," the resolution, forwarded to President Macapagal-Arroyo, said.

"(It) put the MNLF in a disadvantageous and untenable position," it said.

Explaining their opposition to the plebiscite and the coming elections, Hassan said the MNLF Council of 15 was not given enough time to pool their resources to campaign during the plebiscite.

Hassan added that the government, through the Commission on Elections, has not conducted a meaningful and wide-range information drive about the plebiscite and worse, the plebiscite was conducted on a unilateral move of the government. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Confessed killer suffers seizure in jail

BACOLOD CITY—The confessed killer of six Rivilla family members and their two helpers was rushed to a hospital on Nov. 1 after suffering a seizure inside the Silay City Jail.

Bemon Gallo suffered a seizure about 7:15 p.m. on All Saints' Day inside his detention cell at the Silay City Jail, about 14 kilometers south of this city.

His fellow inmates said they got scared when he suddenly went through spasms while his eyes were staring blankly.

They said Gallo was hitting at those who came to help him as he was screaming that he was being surrounded by the devil. After a few minutes, the inmates said, Gallo passed out.

Chief Insp. Amelito Fuentes, Silay City jail warden, said he immediately called a nurse from the Silay City government who took Gallo's blood pressure.

Gallo was rushed to the Jose Locsin Memorial Regional Hospital in Silay after the nurse noted that Gallo's blood pressure had gone up beyond normal levels.

Fuentes said the attending physician told him that Gallo may have been suffering from stress brought about by high blood pressure. He added that the doctor found nothing physically wrong with him.

Asked if the spirits of his victims could be possibly tormenting Gallo, the warden said that story could be a little exaggerated.

Gallo has admitted killing six members of the wealthy Rivilla family and their two helpers inside e Rivilla house on 24th Aguinaldo Street in Bacolod on Dec. 17, 2000.

Gallo, who worked as houseboy of the Rivillas, had said he killed his victims in a fit of rage after an altercation with one of his victims, Benrico, 42.

The other victims were Carlos Rivilla Jr., 75; his wife Florinda, 76; grandchildren, Mark Anthony, 13; Guillermo Benrico Jr., 11 and John Michael, 9; and housemaids Dolores Ogatis, 20 and Ritchel Gonzales, 19.

He has been sentenced to 252 years in prison for the murder of five adults, frustrated murder of the family driver and for theft.

Gallo is facing a separate multiple murder case for killing the three boys.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

DENR cuts Zambales land size by 9,000 has

New map to lead to loss in revenue share

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

IBA, Zambales—The province of Zambales lost 9,000 hectares of land and faces a P24-million cut in its internal revenue allotment (IRA) next year as a result of the revision of the province's political map by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in 1998, local officials said.

Provincial board members learned about the map's revision and its "harsh consequences" only on Monday when the provincial planning and development office presented the new political map to them, Vice Gov. Ramon Lacbain II said.

The DENR, according to him, did not consult or inform the board or Gov. Vicente Magsaysay on the change in the province's territorial boundaries and its land size, which, aside from population and income, determined the IRA share of local governments from national government revenues.

The DENR instead attributed the 9,000 hectares to Zambales' neighboring provinces of Pampanga on the east, Tarlac and Pangasinan on the north and Bataan on the south.

Before the map's revision, Zambales' land area totaled 365,632 hectares.

In Monday's provincial board session, DENR personnel admitted not being aware of this change.

Gregorio Nisperos, DENR regional director, declined to comment when reached by the INQUIRER for his reaction.

Lacbain said the reduction in the land area of Zambales rendered a "big blow" to the province that relied on the IRA for 80 percent of its annual budget.

He said the slash in the province's IRA share, from P311.606 million this year to P287.572 next year, also threatens to reduce funds for social services and development projects.

The board passed a resolution asking the DENR's Land Management Bureau to "temporarily cease the application of such (a) revision until such time that local officials of the different provinces arrived (at) a consensus."

Lacbain said the map's revision has become a "crucial issue" on the levels of municipalities, especially for those seeking reclassification.

"This is not a welcome move for the mayors," he said.

Two problems—one related to place of residency, the other to election registration—were expected to affect residents, he said.

Clerk of court barred from leaving RP

DAVAO CITY—The Supreme Court has issued a hold departure order against a sister of Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza, as a full investigation started on the reported financial scam at the Office of the Clerk of Court (OCC) of the Regional Trial Court here.

The high court prohibited Marilou Dureza-Aldevera, chief of the OCC and Teresita Elijino, cashier, from leaving the country pending the result of the inquiry on the reported financial scam.

RTC Executive Judge Virginia Europa said the hold order was part of the enclosed documents in the preventive suspension imposed on the two by the high tribunal.

Based on the high court's order, which was made available to the media only on Wednesday, Elijino was also asked by the high court to explain her side on the reported irregularity.

Europa claimed that Aldevera was suspended under the principle of command responsibility as chief of the OCC.

She said the financial irregularity was discovered after an audit of the accounts being handled by Elijino.

Europa did not disclose how much money was missing from the cashier's vault but said the high court has already appointed Supreme Court administrator Antonio Dajua to head the investigation panel that would look into the fund shortage.

"The investigation panel will be arriving this month to investigate the matter," Europa said. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

P6-M in illegal lumber seized in Quezon

INFANTA, Quezon—Some P6 million worth of logs, flitches and lumber were recovered by a task force from various government agencies during a three-day operation along the bank of the Agus River in northern Quezon.

The area is considered the transshipment channel of illegal loggers operating in the Sierra Madre ranges.

The raiding team seized about 300,000 board feet of assorted forest products in Barangays Magsaysay and Banugao here as part of Oplan GMA or "Gawing Malinis ang Agus" project.

It also confiscated illegally cut logs in several unlicensed mini-sawmills operating in the area.

"The sawmills usually operate at night," said Armando Rotaquio, Quezon provincial environment and natural resources officer.

No residents living along the riverbanks, however, admitted ownership of the confiscated logs.

Rep. Rafael Nantes lamented the seeming apathy of the residents living along the banks of the Agus River on the disastrous effect of illegal logging on the environment and the community.

In Palawan, a government task force seized 26 of the 28 log flitches of ironwood or *mancono* it earlier confiscated as these were being illegally transported at Barangay Calasaguen, Brooke's Point on Oct. 21. *Delfin Mallari Jr. and Geraldford Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

PNP restructuring to abolish regional HQs

DAVAO CITY—Police Director General Leandro Mendoza asked chiefs of police nationwide to submit their comments or recommendations on a proposal to abolish all 16 regional police offices.

In a memorandum, Mendoza said a House resolution is proposing the creation of six Area Police Offices (APOs) in place of the existing structure.

Police commanders were given until Nov. 5 to submit their comments but in Southern Mindanao, majority of ranking personnel are in favor of the proposal according to Supt. Salvador Alia, spokesperson for the Southern Mindanao regional police office.

Under the proposed restructuring of the police hierarchy, APO I would cover Regions 1, 2, 3 and will be based in Camp Olivas, Pampanga.

APO II, which will be based in Canlubang, Laguna includes Regions 4 and 5 while the National Capital Region would fall under APO III.APO IV will have Regions 6, 7, and 8 and will establish its base in Cebu City.

Regions 9, 10, 11, and 12 will be under APO V with its base in Cagayan de Oro City while the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao would be under APO VI, which will be based in Maguindanao. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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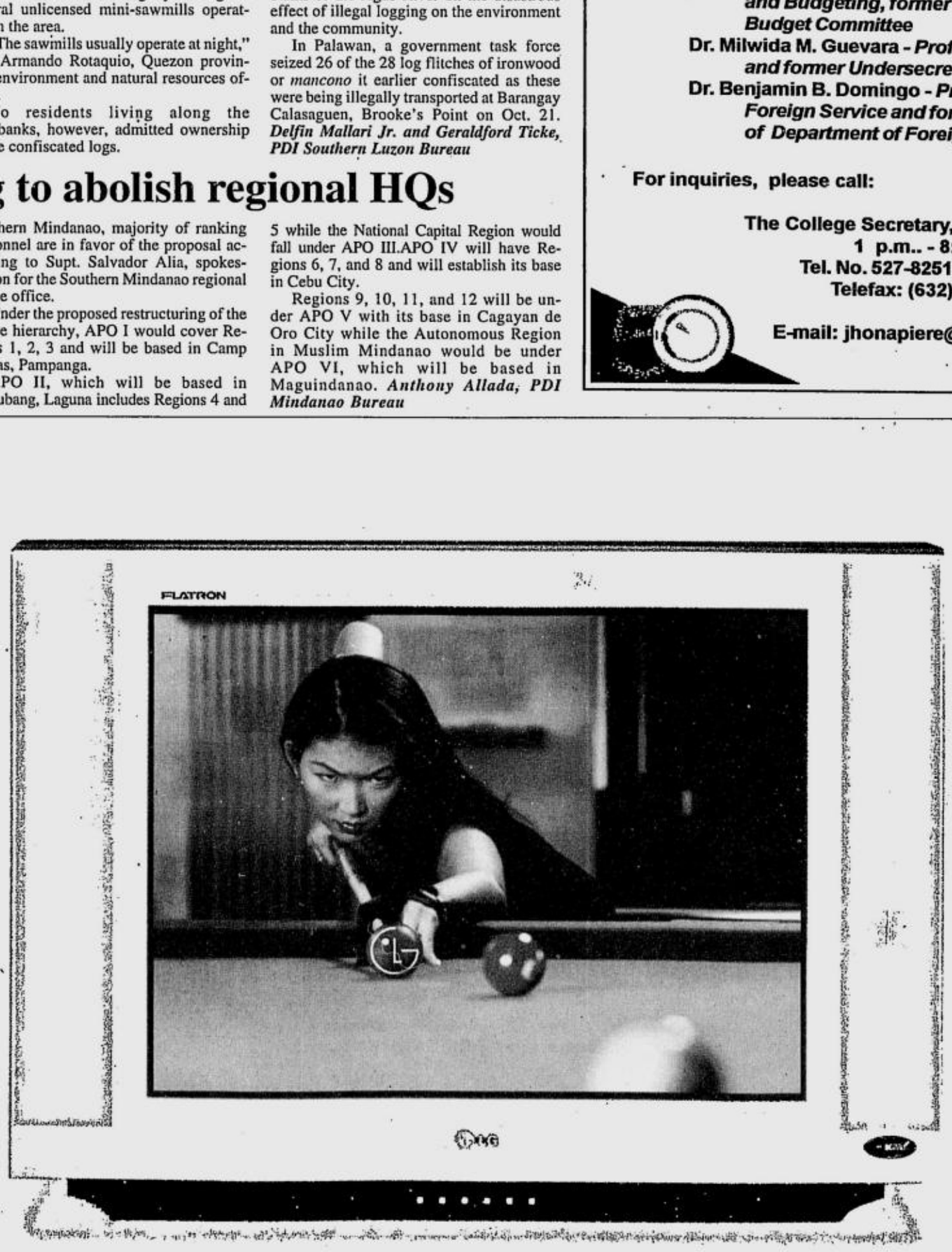

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ILOILO'S CEMETERIES

Forced labor and graveyards

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTE
Iloilo City

ASIDE from visiting the dead, the living among us have the chance to soak up a bit of history in some towns where cemeteries are among the valuable historical relics in Iloilo province.

The cemeteries in the towns of Sta. Barbara, Miagao, Cabatuan and Janiuay are listed as among the religious and socio-cultural landmarks in the province. They appeared in the book "Historical Landmarks and Monuments of Iloilo," authored by Henry Funtecha and Melanie Padilla, both professors of history in the University of the Philippines in the Visayas.

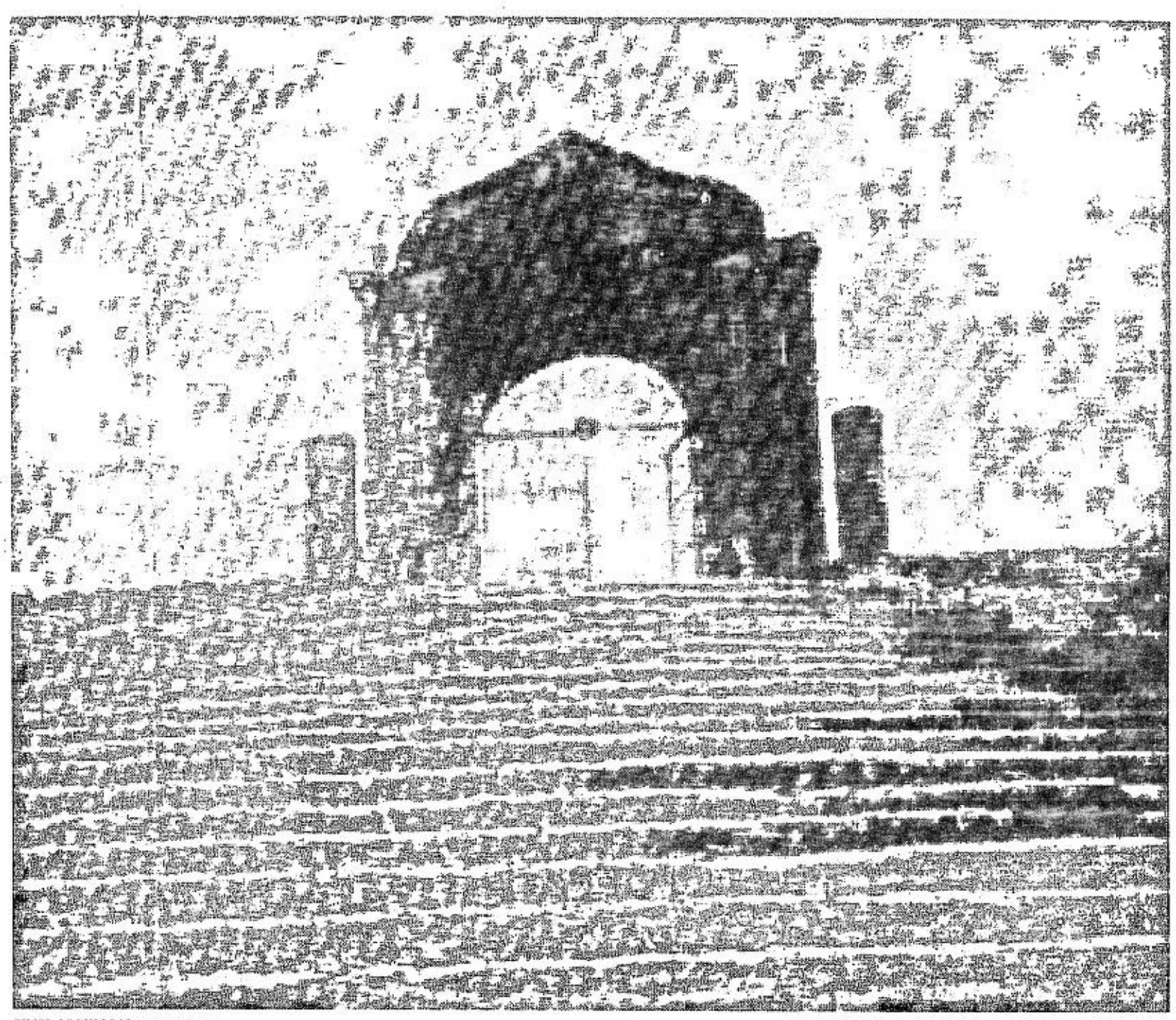
The cemetery of Sta. Barbara, 16 kilometers from here, was built in 1760 simultaneous with the creation of the town's parish. Located in Sitio Anghasan, about half a kilometer from the church, the cemetery has a massive stone gate constructed in 1845. It is made of big stone blocks called "*piedra por esta ultimo*."

The cemetery is the resting place of the famous and respected residents of the town, among them Gen. Martin Delgado, the commander in chief of the *Ejercito Libertador* (Liberation Army), a group of local revolutionaries who fought against Spanish colonial rule.

Forced labor

The Miagao town cemetery, located in Cota Baybay, was built in 1857 through forced labor under the direction of Capitan Sebastian Fausa, a town official, who punished people who disobeyed him or were too lazy to work. The cemetery is famous for its dome chapel. On its base are tombs where the remains of the towns' prominent residents and priests were buried.

Bricks used in the construction of the cemetery were manufactured in Lapaz, Iloilo and La Castellana, Negros Occidental. The coral stones were mined from Guimaras and Miagao and brought to the site by boats and sledges pulled by carabaos.



THE JANIUAY cemetery. FROM 'HISTORICAL LANDMARKS AND MONUMENTS OF ILOILO'

Miagao folk remember a martyr, a certain Godoy, who defied forced labor. As a punishment, he was mounted on horseback, paraded around the *poblacion* with a brass band and men in spears. At every corner, he was whipped until he bled. The punishment was chilling enough that many men in the town fled to other places to escape forced labor.

The Cabatuan town's cemetery in Barangay Banguit is a perfect square and has neat columns of well-arranged tombs. It is said to be a model of success in zoning and layout. Like in Miagao, it was also built through forced labor. The stone slabs were carved from the mountains of Leon town.

The 1948 earthquake heavily damaged the cemetery but the townsfolk faithfully restored it. Among the famous locals buried there was Flavio Zaragoza Cano, a writer and philanthropist who supported the revolutionary forces against Spain and United States.

Bitter history

The sprawling Janiuay cemetery, located 32 km from the city, is one of the major attractions of the town. Built in 1874, the cemetery at the top of the hill welcomes visitors with its elegant arched entrance gates. It has big sturdy columns where icons of saints and angels are found. Steel and stone columns and two Gothic doors fence the cemetery.

The cemetery's beauty belies its bitter history. It was also built by forced labor. The residents were made to bring huge slabs of stones from Dingle town, 27 kilometers away. Spanish priests and missionaries of Augustinian and Dominican order supervised the cemetery's construction until it was completed 10 years later.

Unlisted in Funtecha and Padilla's

FORCED/p.A13

'Ghosts' haunt case of Bacolod massacre

BY CARLA P. GOMEZ
Bacolod City

TEN months after they were murdered in brutal fashion, stories of appearances by some of the slain members of the Rivilla family continue to abound.

As the world celebrates Halloween, a member of the Rivilla family still wonders if the arrest of killer Bemon Gallo has brought those he killed peace amid suspicions that he may have had accomplices who are still at large.

The police have declared the case closed after tagging Gallo as acting alone in the Dec. 17, 2000 early morning murder of five members of the landed Rivilla family and their two housemaids at their home on 24th Aguinaldo Street in Bacolod City.

Gallo was sentenced to 252 years in prison for the murder of five adults, frustrated murder of the family driver and for theft. But the Rivilla family was not satisfied with the verdict. They want him to get the death penalty for the murder of the three Rivilla children.

Gallo, a houseboy of the Rivillas, had admitted in court that he killed his victims in a fit of rage after an altercation with one of his victims, Benrico, 42.

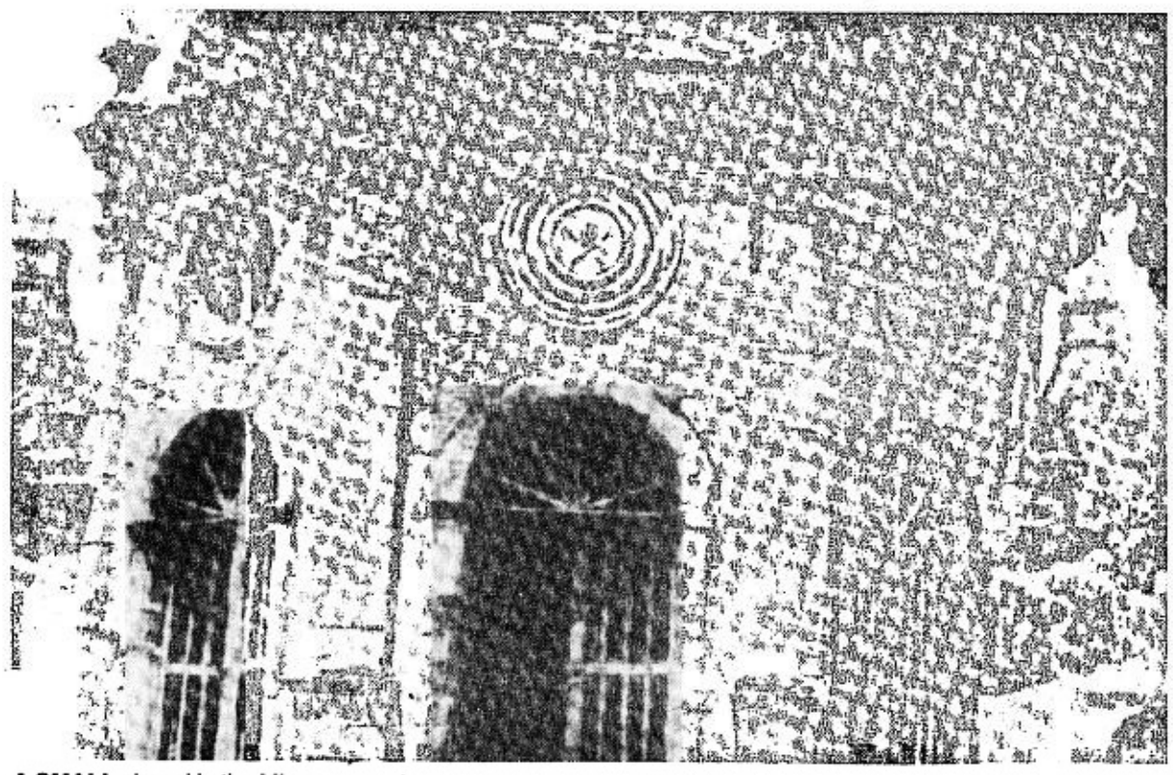
Slain along with Benrico were his three sons—Mark Anthony, 13; Guillermo Benrico Jr., 11, and John Michael, 9; his parents Carlos Jr., 76, and Florinda, 76; and their two housemaids Dolores Otagis, 20, and Ritchel Gonzales, 19.

Benrico and his children were found soaked in their blood inside their bedroom, stripped of their clothes and hacked and hammered to death.

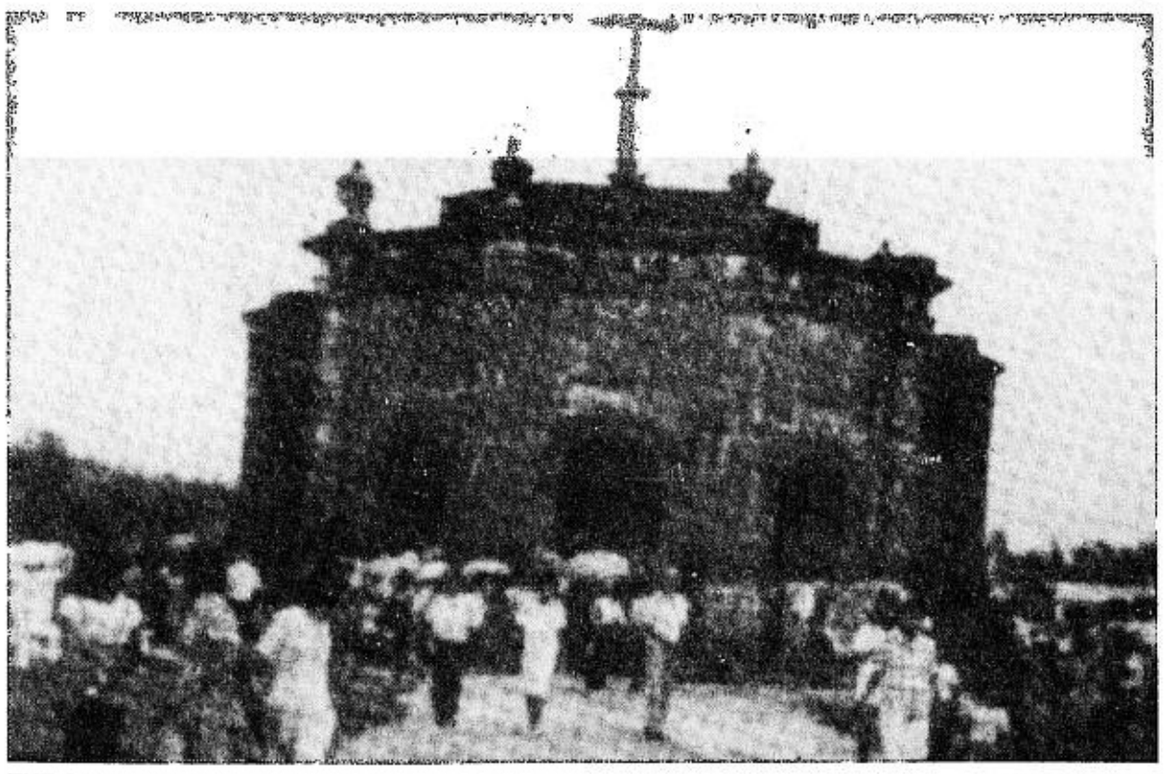
Carlos was also found sprawled in his blood in the kitchen of the main house. Florinda was lying on the floor in her bedroom, still holding a medicine box. The electric fan in the room was still running when the police found her body.

Otagis was found in the dirty kitchen while Gonzales' body was discovered in the maid's room. Both also bore hack wounds.

'GHOST'/p. A13



A SMALL chapel in the Miagao cemetery. FROM SAME BOOK



THE CABATUAN cemetery. FROM SAME BOOK

The perils of 'controlled reporting'

IN A recent meeting with Cebu media executives, tourism leaders strongly argued for "controlled reporting" of violent crime stories, especially those involving foreign nationals.

These stories, according to Dick Gordon's subalterns, are deleterious, even if true, and must therefore be "toned down" as they scare the wits out of dollar-rich tourists.

(Gordon himself went one wrong step further, directly blaming the media for the country's negative image that has resulted in, among other things, a Japanese ban on group travels to the Philippines.)

Naturally, Cebu editors and publishers rejected the proposal, which, stripped of rhetoric, really directs them to distort the facts, even lie, for the sake of better hotel occupancy rates. They know their job—to tell the truth, period.

Some tourism officials, however, think that the truth, like the fees of tour guides and prostitutes, is negotiable.

When the Cebu Daily News, quoting the maritime police, resort guards and residents, reported the presence of four boat-riding armed men in a first-class beach resort in San Fernando town last June, they showed their own version of news management "to stop tourists from panicking."

After the officials' own "investigation," the armed men suddenly became "fishermen" and their long firearms transformed into "paddles." The maritime police, however, stood by the CDN report.

Why blame the press? The Abu Sayyaf and criminal syndicates are no media inventions. They exist and their atrocities are real, regardless of whether the media report

BREAKAWAY

Ivan P. Suansing

about them for the world to know.

If the media stopped reporting about the Abu Sayyaf, would the bandits go away? Would the abductions of foreigners stop? Would the war in Mindanao end and peace reign throughout the land?

While the press may, in its own little way, help boost tourism, that's not its work. Its job is to report the truth, so the public may know and in certain cases, be warned of the kind of danger they risk running into.

If there's anyone to blame for the country's bad image abroad, it's the government itself. The President has run out of threats to make, but the Abu Sayyaf bandits are still here. So are the kidnapping and robbery gangs. Guess whose task it is to neutralize these criminals?

Last week, Cebu officials and managers of tourist-dependent establishments staged a rally in front of the Japanese Consulate Office to trumpet that "Cebu is safe," so may the Japan government please lift the ban it imposed on group travels to Cebu?

The next day, all the local dailies headlined a daring broad daylight robbery of a Land Bank vehicle on a busy downtown street. The armed robbers not only grabbed P4 million, they made a clean getaway as not a single policeman was in sight. What message did this tell foreigners?

* * *

GETTING PETER. As the Senate hearings on the alleged triad connection of Sen. Panfilo Lacson came to a close, the House committee on dangerous drugs was starting a similar inquiry in Cebu.

Rep. Antonio Cuenco had his sights on brothers Peter and Wellington Lim, two prominent Cebu businessmen who couldn't shrug off their alleged links to a big-time illegal drug racket.

Peter, in fact, made it to the infamous Cuenco List, a 1997 compilation of names of suspected drug dealers that produced stigma, but hardly any proof that can stand in court and conviction.

This time, however, Cuenco came up with an ace, two aces in fact, up his sleeves—two former henchmen of the Lim brothers who claimed they had personal knowledge of the businessmen's shabu business.

One of the witnesses, who used to manage one of the seedy bars owned by the Lims, said he sometimes traveled with the brothers to Hong Kong where they bought shabu to be hidden in golf bags and shipped back to the Philippines.

The other witness, Peter's bodyguard, said he once escorted a shipment of shabu, tucked in stalactite cargo on board a WG&A vessel, that was seized by the group of former customs commissioner Vicente Parayno in Manila.

During the House hearings, they identified several customs and immigration officials who allegedly looked the other way as they passed by with shabu in their luggage.

Tall tales? Both witnesses recently passed a lie-detector test given by Manila-based agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

'Ghosts' haunt case of Bacolod massacre

(From page A12)

Bungled case?

Members of the Rivilla family, however, expressed belief that the police bungled the case and that Gallo had an accomplice, said Benrico's cousin, Raymund Rivilla Fuentes.

The Rivilla family said they believed that the spirits of their slain family members found no rest because justice was not fully served.

Raymund said her niece Carla Rivilla swore to having seen her three slain cousins on her high school graduation day last March.

Carla, daughter of Carlos' deceased son Carlos III, lived in the same house where her grandparents, uncle and cousins were killed. She was spared because she was not home that night.

Carla has since relocated to Metro Manila and graduated from the St. Scholastica's Academy in March.

Raymund said that as Carla went on stage, she claimed she saw her three young cousins smiling and waving to her from among the audience.

He said another nephew, Carlos Lizares, also saw his grandfather sitting in a chair in his bedroom at his house in Pasay City.

Raymund also recalled that the day he aired his misgivings in July about Gallo being the lone killer, he saw from the window of the Negros Museum, where he is the curator, a well dressed man impatiently standing in front of the law office across the street and moving just like his uncle.

"It was like my uncle approved of my outburst," he said.

"For me, the case is not closed. I do not believe Gallo was the lone killer."

Moans

Security guards were also wary of getting assigned to the Rivilla home because of reports that after the murder, the guards assigned to the house reported hearing loud moans and the rattling of pots and pans from the kitchen where some of the slain victims were found.

Raymund said that could have just been the imagination of the guards. Shortly after the Rivilla funerals, a Mass was held at the house and every room of the house was blessed.

He said some of his cousins have slept at the house and have not heard anything unusual. But he admitted that he would not want to sleep in the room where his cousin Benrico and his three sons were killed.

He said their family agreed to allow Marian priests to live in the house for free.

"Perhaps the men of God will bring peace to the home again," he said.

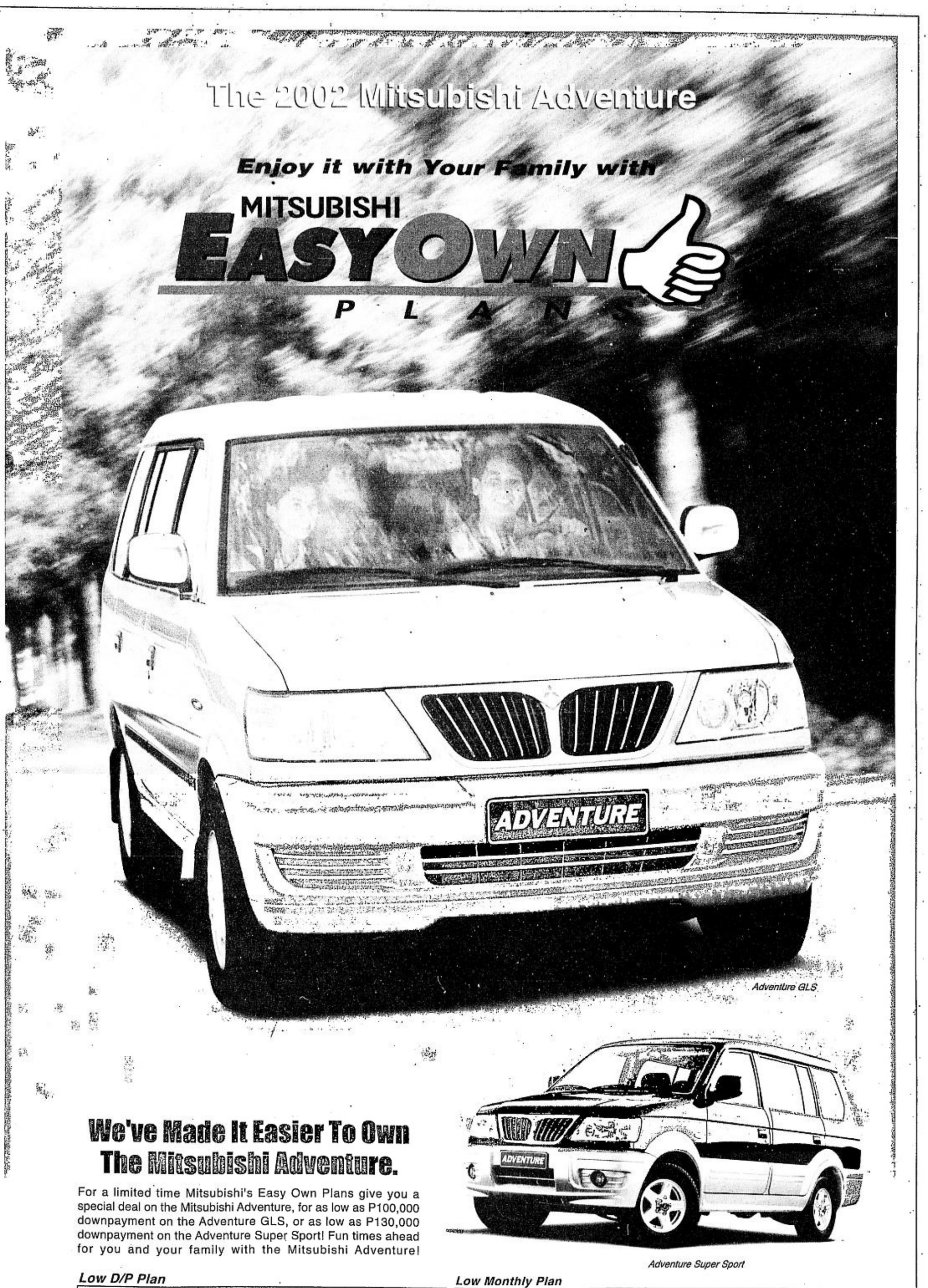
Forced...

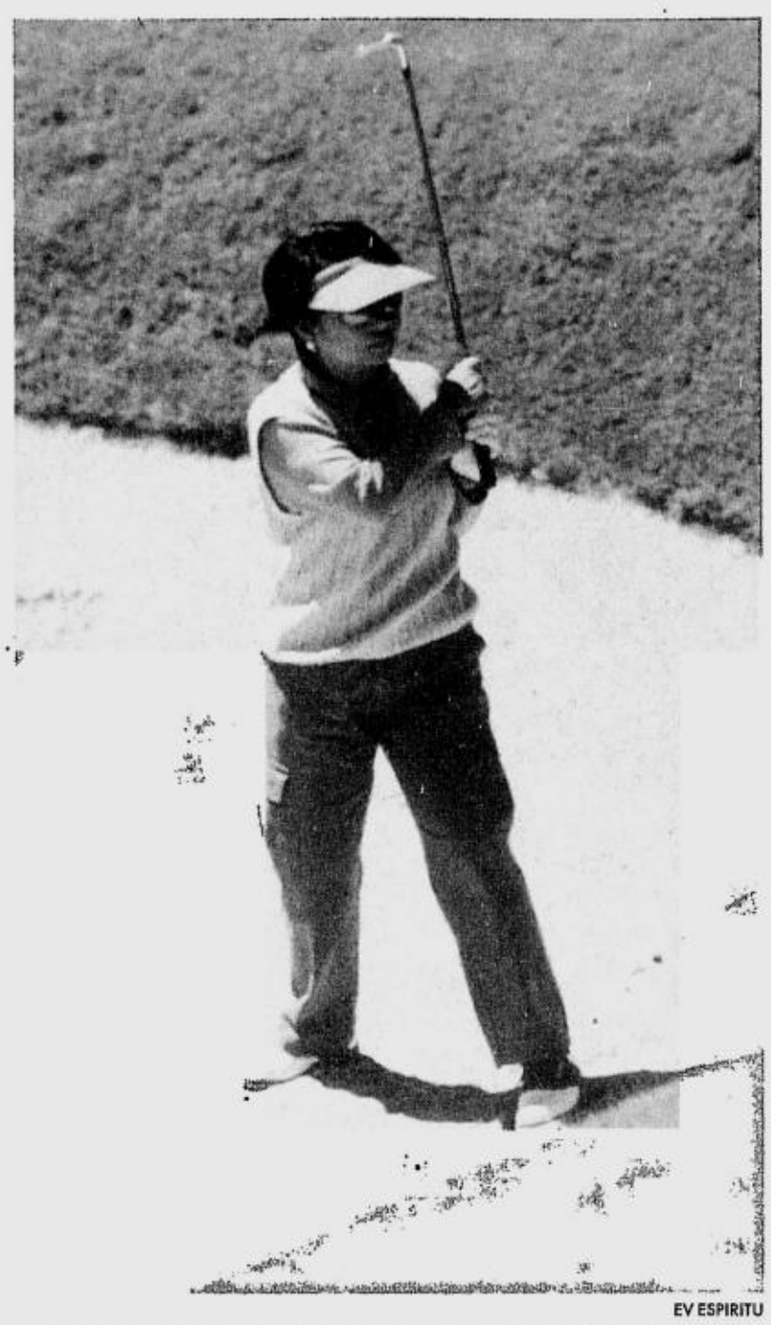
(From page A12)

book are the cemeteries of San Joaquin and Pototan, also noted for their impressive designs dating back to a hundred years ago. They are the usual stops of art, history and architecture students during their heritage sorties.

Located 53 km southeast of Iloilo City, the San Joaquin cemetery was built in 1893 of coral rocks. It is noted for its hexagonal chapel crown, a 20-step staircase flanked by stone balustrades and rose windows at the main entrance.

The authors said the cemeteries, along with other historical landmarks like churches, schools and other structures, serve as evidence of Iloilo's past glory that was built on the sweat and sufferings of its people.





EV ESPIRITU

IN A FIX, all right. President Macapagal's game is caught in a sand trap

Gloria's in a fix, says YOU leader

(From page A1)

ther are we in the habit of inducing people to action through monetary or positional considerations."

Cardeño identified one of the power blocs as the military, which withdrew support from then President Joseph Estrada at the height of People Power II.

"Just look at the comptrollership of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the misuse and pocketing of funds, how the AFP modernization program is being handled," he said. "Once you get a look inside, you can immediately sniff anomalies."

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes represents this bloc, Cardeño said.

Reyes was AFP chief of staff when the military abandoned Estrada last January.

Civil society

Another power bloc, although fragmented, is composed of civil society groups, Cardeño said.

He named two of these groups as the Council on Philippine Affairs, which is identified with Aquino's brother Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, and the People's Consultative Assembly (PCA), which is identified with former President Fidel Ramos' Budget Secretary Salvador Enriquez Jr.

The PCA, through its secretary general Linda Olaguer-Montayre, had earlier issued an open letter to Ms Macapagal warning her that it would withdraw support if her administration did not institute reforms in 30 days.

Reacting angrily, the President had said the PCA meant "nothing" to her.

Cardeño said yet another power bloc consisted of business families close to the President. He specifically named the Aboitiz family.

"These blocs are like the patricians of Rome. They want to exert influence in government and to do this, they have to fight it out with one another," he said.

Cardeño said Ms Macapagal's failure to consolidate her hold on power resulted from having assumed the presidency without a solid power base.

"She came to power without her own group that is intensely loyal to her. As a result, she has been relying on people who gave her the dough," he said.

He added that the YOU—an organization of middle-level military and police officers—was not aligned with these power blocs "because we will persist as a pressure group for reforms and good government."

After being held at Camp Crame for questioning, Cardeño and YOU founding chair Supt. Diosdado Valeroso were summoned to Malacañang last Oct. 24 to meet with the President.

Days later, it was announced that Cardeño would be reassigned to the Philippine National Police regional office in Western Visayas, and Valeroso to Zamboanga. Malacañang said the reassignments were not related to the coup rumors.

Cardeño, however, said yesterday that he had yet to be informed of his new assignment.

First Gentleman

In its statement, Lakas said the coup was being plotted by the political opposition, which it said had been trying to link First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo to scandals as a rationale for the power grab.

Malay said the YOU had been using the names of ex-President Ramos and retired Col. Billy Bibit in its recruitment efforts.

He said those plotting the coup had been using a "plush" resort in Cavite owned by a "known political warlord" in the province as rendezvous point.

He added that government intelligence agents should monitor the resort on a 24-hour basis.

The Lakas statement was issued a few days after the Texas-based think tank Strategic Forecasting Inc. (Stratfor) came out with an assessment that the President was in no danger of being ousted through a coup but that she should treat even rumors of it "seriously."

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus for his comment on the Lakas statement.

But other military officials said they had not seen the supposed report on the recruitment of the two pilots.

"I can't confirm or deny that," Air Force spokesperson Col. Lino Horacio Lapinid said in a phone interview. "But if ever they are planning to recruit our officers, they'll be frustrated. Anyway, the report will be checked."

Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, spokesperson for the AFP, dismissed the report. "That is their usual pattern—they try to sound out (possible recruits) but in most cases, they are rebuffed," he said.

Lapinid said the YOU, although a potent force, would find the going hard.

"They need major commanders. If they go it alone, they will encounter problems," he said in Taglish.

'Idle talk'

Director Thompson Lantion, deputy for police community relations, dismissed the coup rumors as "pure idle talk."

"Nobody is creeping around. We have observed that the President is transparent and means well for the economic recovery of this country," he told reporters in an ambush interview.

Lantion also reiterated that "there is no basis" for a coup.

What appears to have a basis is Stratfor's advice to the President to treat coup rumors seriously, he said

"It's a research group," he said, "and whatever is its finding or recommendation through its research must have a basis."

Lantion also dismissed reports of demoralization in the Philippine National Police with the President's recent announcement that Chief Supt. Hermogenes Ebdane was next in line to the post of PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza.

Interior Secretary Joey Lina also said he had not received any reports to that effect.

Mendoza, who is due for retirement in March, is scheduled to meet with PNP officers next week to brief them on the Zamboanga bombing incident and on "the procedures announcing the next chief PNP."

Lantion stressed that Mendoza was not meeting the officers to prop up support for his successor or to conduct a loyalty check.

"There is no demoralization among the ranks. We remain solid, unified, and we work as a team," Lantion said.

He said PNP officials might have already expected Ebdane, being second in command, to succeed Mendoza.

"Whenever the chief PNP goes abroad, (Ebdane) is the designated officer," Lantion said.

Asked to describe the leadership styles of Mendoza and Ebdane, Lantion said the former was an "excellent investigator," and the latter, an "excellent operations man." ***With a report from Luige A. del Puerto, Contributor***

Golden Gate, 3 other California bridges in peril

(From page A1)

Bay Bridge, the Vincent Thomas Bridge at the port of Los Angeles and the Coronado Bridge in San Diego.

Almost immediately, however, officials began playing down the reported threat and Davis admitted that no specific threat had been received and that he had named those bridges because they were the state's most prominent.

"If I didn't make that statement and God forbid something happens, I'd be kicking myself . . . You have to err on the side of caution; you have to do everything you can to protect people and then if the threat turns out to be false, fine," he said later on CNN's "Larry King" interview program, defending his actions.

The governor said he had spoken to US Homeland Security chief Tom Ridge, who supported his decision to tell the people of California about the threats.

"You have to do everything you can to protect people," Davis said, vowing that the bridges were safe and, in fact, "could not possibly be safer than they are today".

California Highway Patrol commissioner Dwight "Spike" Helmick said none of the bridges would be closed, and that the National Guard might be stationed at each end of the four bridges for extra security.

"All safety precautions are in place," Helmick said. "I'm going to drive over them tomorrow."

Helmick said some suitcases had been found near the Golden Gate Bridge, but did not contain anything suspicious.

The picturesque 1.7-mile rust red Golden Gate bridge, a symbol of San Francisco and California, is used by 116,000 cars daily.

Authorities at the San Francisco's Bay Bridge, which links San Francisco to Oakland, California, were surprised by the governor's warning, but insisted that security was tight.

"It was as much news to us as it was to you," said Greg Bayol, a spokesperson for the span, a two-part, 8-mile-long (13-km) bridge that reaches over the eastern section of the San Francisco Bay. Some 240,000 vehicles cross the bridge daily.

City officials in San Francisco—which has hundreds of thousands of commuters crossing its two bridges daily—stressed there was no need for alarm and said the warning had been misinterpreted.

"It got a little out of hand," Board of Supervisors president Tom Ammiano said. "The message again is one of assurance. San Francisco is going to remain on high alert."

The justice department released a copy of the warning conveyed by the FBI's counter-terrorism division citing "uncorroborated information" that unspecified groups might target suspension bridges on the West Coast.

"Six incidents are to take place during rush hour beginning Friday, Nov. 2 and continuing through Nov. 7, 2001," the FBI warning said, adding that the FBI was attempting to verify the validity of the report.

California Highway Patrol officials said security would be tight with additional patrols by the National Guard, the Highway Patrol, the Coast Guard and other security agencies.

But they stressed that traffic would be allowed to move across the spans as normal, and there was no need for undue public concern.

"I encourage all the people to use the bridges," Helmick said, adding that "extraordinary efforts" had been made to ensure public safety.

"There is not a specific threat against California bridges.

The information the governor got, and what he talked, was (about) a potential threat on bridges in the Western states."

In Seattle, officials said police would step up patrols of the harbors and bridges that surround the city, although they also played down the potential threat.

"I personally do not see this as a significant risk based on the source of the information and the nature of the threats that are being received," said FBI Special Agent Charles Mandigo, who called the information "third-hand."

4 big bridges

The Vincent Thomas Bridge, completed in 1963, spans the main channel of the Los Angeles Harbor in San Pedro, and is just over one-mile (1.6 km) long. The soaring 2-mile (3.2-km) long Coronado Bridge joins the island of Coronado with San Diego and was opened in 1969.

The Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, a major world landmark, was completed in 1937 and spans the Golden Gate strait that connects San Francisco Bay with the Pacific Ocean.

The Bay Bridge, opened in 1936, is the longest steel high-level bridge in the world. It is 4-and-a-half mile (6.4 km) long, carries 280,000 vehicles a day and links San Francisco with Oakland.

Justice Department spokesperson Mindy Tucker said the warning was one of many that FBI officials had disseminated around the country since Sept. 11, and there was no specific reason to believe it particularly credible.

"We don't consider this information to be as credible as the information we shared on Monday" when authorities issued a general warning of possible fresh attacks against the United States, Tucker said.

West Coast jitters

Davis, who on Thursday named former FBI Agent George Vinson as his special adviser on state security, also said he was issuing new instructions to health officials following a spate of anthrax attacks on the East Coast.

He added that while he believed the bridges would remain safe, it would be up to individual commuters to decide whether they wanted to use the spans during the period in question.

"The best preparation is to let the terrorists know we know what you're up to, we're ready, it's not going to succeed," Davis said.

A law enforcement source, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters that that it would be relatively easy for a terrorist to blow up a bridge with a car bomb or truck filled with explosives.

"How do you stop these folks? They don't care about living beyond the actual act," the source said. ***Reuters and AFP***

'Safest place on earth'

(From page A1)

After all, Cuba, given the American government's enmity toward it, may just be one of the safest places against attacks from anti-American terrorists.

Agee, who started the first independent American business here in the four decades of the US economic embargo on Cuba, is trying to lure terror-phobic Americans to the communist island in his website, www.cubalinda.com.

"Stressed Out from the World Crisis?" the Web page flashes, under a picture of an idyllic beach. "Need Relief from Everyday Anxieties? Give Yourself a Break in Cuba, the Safest Country in the World."

Other travel agencies specializing in US travel to Cuba have also promoted Cuba's safety, praising the island's security record, but they fell short of selling it as a refuge from international terrorism.

"When I first thought of this promotion I was worried that people might think I was exploiting people's fears," Agee says. "But then I thought, this is exactly what Americans need now."

Havana weekend getaways

On his website, tourists can book weekend getaways to Havana that start at $150, excluding airfare. An all-inclusive week at one of Cuba's finest beaches starts at $300.

Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States and the subsequent anthrax cases, tourism officials have struggled to reassure people to go ahead with planned vacations.

That was not Agee's biggest problem because Cuba, due to the US enmity toward it, enjoys an obvious buffer from foreign aggression directed at Americans.

Instead, Agee's challenge comes in convincing Americans to buck a US law that still prohibits most Americans from traveling to the Caribbean island.

This year, the US Treasury Department has mailed more than 400 letters to people suspected of traveling to Cuba without permission. In theory they can be fined up to $55,000, but usually the fine demanded is $7,500—and Agee says even that can be avoided.

He said Americans who get a US "pre-penalty" notice need only request a hearing to escape penalty since the Treasury has no means to conduct the hearings. Journalists, humanitarian workers, scholars and some Cuban-Americans can get US permission to travel to Cuba.

American tourists in Cuba

About 1.7 million tourists visited Cuba last year, and the US-Cuba Trade and Economic Council, a private group, estimated that 173,000 of these were Americans, 22,000 of which traveled without US approval. Those without permission often come on flights from third countries such as Mexico or Canada.

"This year we had arranged trips to Cuba for 165 people, most of whom were Americans," Agee said. "We were on our way to having 600 until the terrorist attacks happened and people started postponing."

Bruno Culombe, the president of www.usacubatravel.com, also promotes Cuba's safety in selling vacations to the island.

"I think planes going to Cuba will be the last ones to be the target of terrorists," he said. "For this reason, I think Cuba is one of the safest countries to vacation in at the moment."

The Canadian company based in Fredericton, New Brunswick, has lost business since the Sept. 11 attacks because the company promotes one destination—Cuba—to one market—Americans. But Culombe says business is beginning to look up.

Gordon Bulton, a lawyer from Berkeley, California, said he did not want to cancel after going through the trouble of getting US permission and arranging his own trip.

"We didn't come here necessarily to get away from concerns over bioterrorism, but we definitely feel safer in Cuba than we would in our own town," he said.

Dispelling lies

Agee, himself, is used to bucking the law. He quit the CIA in 1969 after 12 years with the agency, working mostly in Latin America during the years that leftist movements were gaining prominence.

His 1975 book, "Inside the Company: CIA Diary," cited alleged CIA misdeeds against leftists.

Agee's American passport was revoked in 1979 after US officials ruled that he was a threat to national security. He then obtained a German travel document that he used to enter Cuba.

"Obviously this is a commercial venture, but getting Americans to Cuba is also political," he said.

"A long time ago I was in the business of telling lies for the CIA. Today, I'm trying to dispel some of those lies." ***AP***

AFP: Abu feelers could be a trick . . .

(From page A1)

Sabaya giving himself up "has not been verified and his surrender should have no conditions."

In Malacañang, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said President Macapagal-Arroyo was giving the military a free hand in dealing with Sabaya.

"Our point is that it is a military operation now," Tiglao said. About 5,000 government forces are engaged in combat operations in Basilan.

Tiglao said Ms Macapagal "has full confidence in the military's competence." Hence, military commanders on the ground can make tactical decisions on matters like the reported plan of Sabaya to surrender, according to Tiglao.

"I cannot confirm the surrender feelers but our policy has never changed: the only negotiation we can undertake is for the release of the captives," he said.

Tiglao reiterated that two points would guide negotiations—ransom is not paid and military operations are not interrupted.

Warning

In Zamboanga City, Brig. Gen. Glicerio Sua, chief of the Task Force Comet, said people working underground to secure the release of the Burnhams would be hunted down if they were found to have links to the Abu Sayyaf.

Sua said he issued the order after receiving a letter purportedly written by Sabaya asking for a negotiation and a halt to military operations.

"I have directed our commanders to hunt down whoever are trying to negotiate for the release of the hostages if it is established that they have ties to the Abu Sayyaf," Sua said.

He advised individuals working for the release of the American couple to avoid getting caught in the crossfire.

"If the soldiers kill them in an encounter, that is no longer our problem," Sua said.

Col. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., commanding officer of the Army's 103rd Brigade based in Basilan, said he received an order from Sua to "physically block (negotiators) from entering the Sayyaf's lair."

Tiglao said the military would be left to evaluate whether operations would be suspended this November during the Ramadan when Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset.

But Tiglao said the Abu Sayyaf was not an Islamic group. "They don't care about the teachings of Islam. Therefore they don't care about the Ramadan," he said.

"We respect the Muslim holiday but we don't consider the Abu Sayyaf an Islamic group. It's a group of criminals and bandits," Tiglao said.

He noted that even the Moro National Liberation Front as well as the Moro Islamic Liberation Front had condemned the criminal practices of the Abu Sayyaf. ***With reports from Carlito Pablo in Manila; Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and Reuters and AFP***

2 Pinoys held on fears they carry anthrax

(From page A1)

appeared to have been infected by the anthrax, but some had been put on extended courses of antibiotics.

"We received a press release envelope which contained white powder . . . and it has tested positive for containing anthrax spores," said editor Mehmood Sham.

Anthrax-by-mail mystery

In New York, the death of a fourth person, a Vietnamese immigrant, from inhaled anthrax baffled "disease detectives" tracking its source and raised questions over whether the outbreak might be more widespread than originally thought.

Almost a month into the anthrax-by-mail mystery, authorities reported no progress in the investigation. Health officials said anthrax spores have been spread through the mail in tainted letters. But authorities cannot say how or where the fourth fatality, a 61-year-old New York hospital supply clerk, Kathy Nguyen, became infected. There has been no suspicious letter and no traces of anthrax where she worked.

A life alone

Detectives scoured Nguyen's life for hints to the infection that ended it. So far, tests at her Bronx apartment, where she lived alone, and at the Manhattan Eye Ear and Throat Hospital, an outpatient clinic, where she worked, have turned up none of the deadly spores.

Intensive interviews with neighbors and co-workers haven't cracked the case, which has troubled investigators worried that the anthrax threat could spread beyond the media and the mail.

The anthrax that killed Nguyen is virtually identical to bacteria found elsewhere in the bioterrorism scare, said investigators.

It is a challenging investigation, they said.

Nguyen was too sick to talk before she died, and had no close family to help retrace her steps.

So far there's no evidence she was exposed through the mail, as other victims were, said Dr. Julie Gerberding of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"We are on a steep learning curve," she said. "We have learned an awful lot in an awfully short period of time, and I suspect we will have more to learn."

In Washington where anthrax has killed two people, cleanup was under way on the nine-story Capitol Hill building, and justices were returning to a decontaminated Supreme Court.

Anthrax spores continued turning up in government mail rooms and post offices. But city health authorities suggested the worst was over.

City officials said many postal workers did not need to take preventive antibiotics. Health officials noted it has been almost a week since a new infection turned up. "We are in a different day," said Dr. Ivan Walks, the city's health director.

Other infected sites

In New Jersey, Officials remained puzzled by the less serious but still unexplained skin infection in a 51-year-old New Jersey accountant.

The state's governor asked for help testing every post office in the state for anthrax. "It appears that New Jersey . . . is the front line of the anthrax attack," wrote Acting Gov. Donald T. DiFrancesco.

On Thursday, four Food and Drug Administration mailrooms in suburban Maryland joined a growing list of infected sites. In Florida, a sixth post office tested positive, too, and local authorities suggested more than one tainted letter may have been sent to the tabloid publishing company where the scare began.

More than 170 area postal workers in the Kansas City area joined thousands of other Americans on antibiotics after anthrax was detected in the Stamp Fulfillment Center. A private mail maintenance center in Indianapolis remained closed for cleaning after anthrax spores were found there on a piece of postal equipment sent from a contaminated mail processing center in Trenton, New Jersey.

Summary

Four weeks after the first anthrax diagnosis, the CDC said it had confirmed 16 cases. That included 10 of the inhalation type—including four fatalities—and six of the less dangerous skin variety.

New York City health officials have confirmed three additional cases of skin anthrax, using a looser standard than the one used by federal authorities.

Doctors and hospitals braced for the start of flu season and the possibility that many Americans will confuse symptoms of flu with inhalation anthrax. Federal health officials were trying to help doctors sort out the cases, though CDC's Gerberding said they won't be able to develop comprehensive guidelines unless they see many more anthrax cases.

"I, with all my heart, hope that we don't have enough information to definitively answer this question," she said. ***AP, Reuters***

Davenport reaches semis

MUNICH, Germany—For the first time since 1994, women's tennis has a genuine battle to see who will end the year No. 1. Lindsay Davenport reached the semifinals of the Sanex Championships Thursday, trouncing Yugoslav teenager Jelena Dokic, 6-4, 6-2. That kept the charging Davenport's hopes alive of taking away Jennifer Capriati's top ranking before the women's tour breaks for two months. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▣ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Reyes-Lee showdown tonight

THE MUCH-AWAITED LG Flatron Billiard Challenge between Jeanette "The Black Widow" Lee and Efren "Bata" Reyes gets underway at the Las Vegas-style setting of Casino Filipino in Parañaque starting at 7 tonight. The winner gets $10,000, while the loser receives $5,000.

PBL Cup on today; 2 games up

BY DENNIS EROA

GAMES SATURDAY (Makati Coliseum)
2 p.m.—Welcoat Paints vs Freezers
4 p.m.—Blu Detergent vs Kutitap Toothpaste

STILL on cloud nine due to the Malacañang ruling upholding its status as an amateur league, the PBL pushes through with the 2001 Challenge Cup today at the Makati Coliseum.

Four-time champion Welcoat Paints and crowd-favorite Ana Freezers open hostilities at 2 p.m., followed by a clash between two title-hungry teams—Blu Detergent and Kutitap Toothpaste—at 4 p.m.

"We dedicate the PBL's initial success to our fans and supporters and to those who believe in its cause," said PBL Commissioner Chino Trinidad."It's time to move on and concentrate on the difficult tasks ahead."

Board chair Dioceldo Sy said fans can expect thrilling action especially with the presence of collegiate stars, whose stint have been assured by the order of Executive Secretary Bert Romulo keeping the PBL's amateur status.

"We've been vindicated. The league will repay this decision by thrilling the fans with non-stop action," said Sy.

Welcoat has retained the core of its championship team. The Paintmasters are looking for their 6th straight finals appearance and their fifth title before most of their stars jump to the pro league.

Slotman Yancy de Ocampo, Ren Ren Ritualo, Celino Cruz, Jojo Manalo and Eugene Tan are all set to enter the 2002 PBA draft.

Paul Artadi and Ronald Tubid benefited from the Malacañang ruling and will join forces with Ariel Capus, Leo Vilar, Ariel de Castro, Robin Mendoza and Dondon Mendoza as Ana tries to upstage Welcoat.

Menk sparks Tanduay win

ERIC Menk returned in style as he lifted Tanduay Gold to a 92-90 overtime victory over San Miguel Beer last night in the PBA Governors Cup at the Astrodome.

The 6-foot-5 Menk lived up to his nickname as "Major Pain" by repeatedly piercing the Beermen's defense with his jumpers and penetrations en route to 32 points, seven rebounds and three assists.

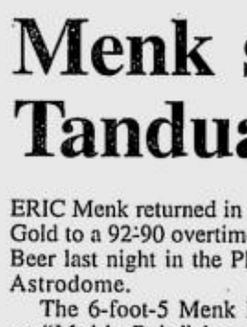
It was Tanduay's fourth win against seven losses as the Rhummasters remained in the hunt for a quarterfinals slot. San Miguel dropped to 6-5.

Lamont Strothers outplayed Billy Thomas, scoring six straight free throws as the Beermen took a 90-86 lead, but Menk sank a jumper and Dondon Hontiveros canned a triple, 49 seconds left.

A three-pointer by Dindo Pumaren also forced overtime with a triple, 84-84. *Dennis U. Eroa*

Scores:
TANDUAY 92—Menk 32, Thomas 21, Pumaren 12, Locsin 11, Hontiveros 5, Webb 4, Hawkins 3, Cantonjos 2, Cariaso 2.
SMB 90—Strothers 37, Ildefonso 22, Racela 9, Belasco 6, Peña 6, Duat 4, Victoria 3, Lago 3.
Quarters: 17-26, 33-42, 60-68, 84-84, 92-90.

Jordan lifts team to victory


JORDAN

ATLANTA—Michael Jordan scored 31 points in Game 2 of his latest comeback Thursday and showed he hasn't lost the winning touch, leading the Washington Wizards to a 98-88 victory over the Atlanta Hawks.

After being held to 19 points in his return two nights earlier, Jordan mustered some vintage moves and a slam dunk out of his 38-year-old body, and refused to let the young Wizards falter down the stretch.

The teams managed only three baskets in the final three minutes, but one of them—the clinching play—involved Jordan. He drew a double-team 3.6 meters (12 feet) from the basket and passed to an open Chris Whitney, who sank a 3-pointer with 39 seconds remaining to give the Wizards a 93-86 lead.

Complete results: Wizards 98, Hawks 88; Mavs 99, 76ers 92; Pistons 90, Grizzlies 80; Rockets 98, Clippers 92, OT; Bucks 102, Nuggets 101; Lakers 105, Jazz 101; Sonics 114, Spurs 108; Suns 107, Warriors 101. *AP*

ITF CIRCUIT

Fil-Am netter enters final

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

DIANE Matias averted a second-set collapse to defeat Chinese-Taipei's Weng Tzu-Ting, 6-3, 6-4, yesterday and set a final showdown with another Taiwanese in the Union Cement-ITF women's circuit at the Rizal Memorial tennis center.

The win, which gave the 16-year-old Matias her first final appearance in this tournament, was not without a hitch as Matias somehow lost focus in the stretch and allowed her 4-1 lead to dwindle to 5-4.

"She started to play smart in that juncture while I gave away too many loose points," said Matias, whose family left the country when she was six and is now based in Los Angeles, California. "But I'm really determined to win this title and tried not to make too many mistakes."

But standing in her way from the title is Chuang Chia-Jing, who had an easy time disposing of Hong Kong's Lam Po-Kuen, 6-0, 6-3, in the other semis match.

Banking on her speed and solid backhand, Matias surprisingly had an easy time controlling the more experienced Weng in the first set. In fact, Weng, who won the 1998 Asian games team gold medal, herself wasn't expecting that kind of game from the Fil-Am.

"She's a very good player with a tough mental game," said Weng, who even predicted that the lean and muscular Matias would win over her compatriot in the 9:30 a.m. final.

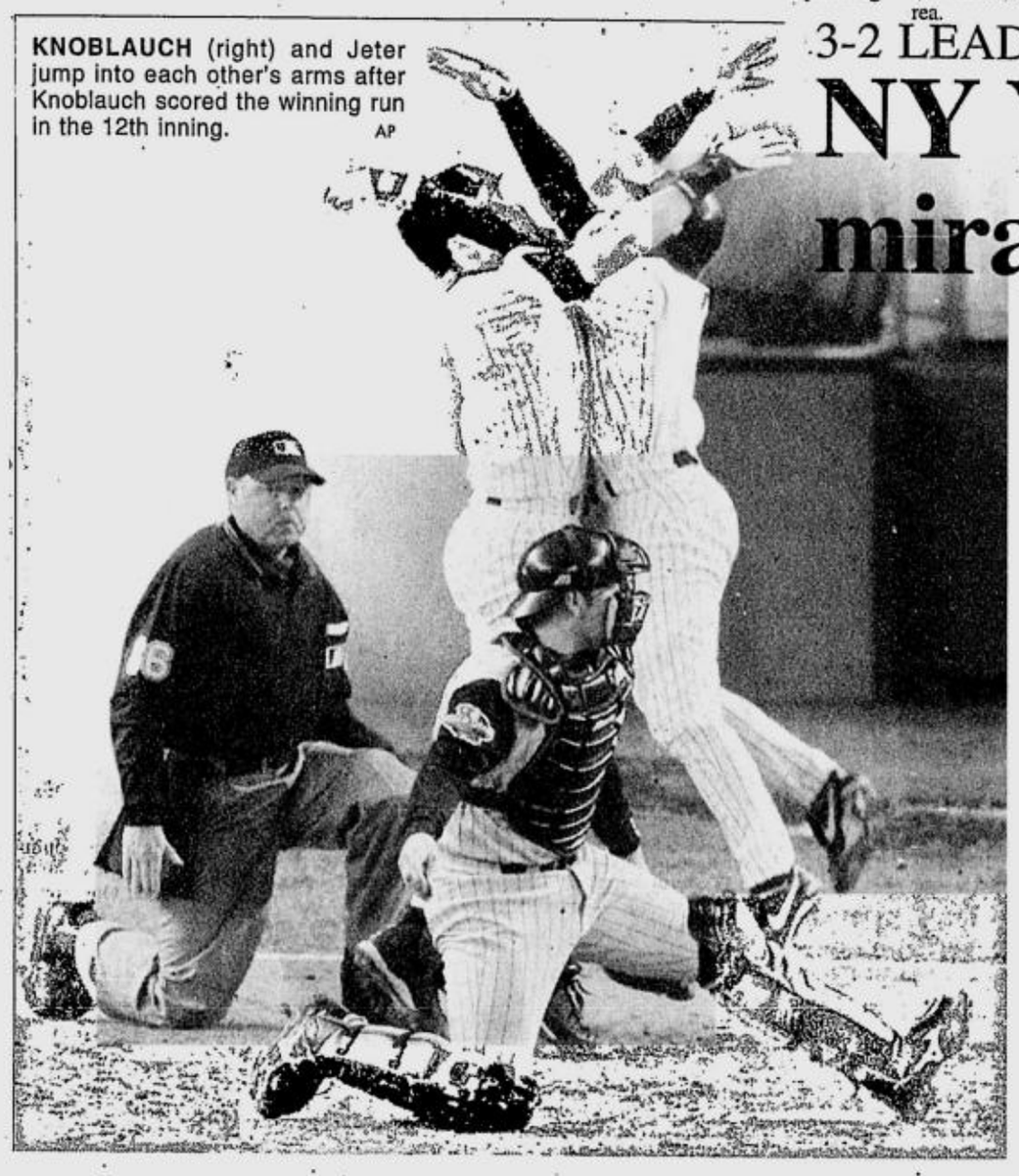
But it's going to be a close call between the two sixteeners, who are both packing impressive credentials going to this tournament. Chuang won the 1999 Brunei Open juniors title and is now ranked No. 5 in her country, while Matias is the reigning champion in the Easter Bowl national age-group competitions in LA.

One thing going for Matias is the support from the crowd who are at her side despite the fact that she's entered as an American.

The only daughter of a Filipino businessman and Filipino dental assistant, Matias practically took the cudgels from Filipino bets who have fallen by the wayside in this 10-nation event.

The country's No. 1, Czarina Mae Arevalo, who happened to be Matias' doubles partner, bowed out in the second round. Already, Matias has been asked to play for the national team in next year's Asian Games in South Korea.

MATIAS E. SARMIENTO


KNOBLAUCH (right) and Jeter jump into each other's arms after Knoblauch scored the winning run in the 12th inning. AP

3-2 LEAD

NY Yankees repeat miracle comeback

NEW YORK—A miracle last-out comeback for the second night in a row put the New York Yankees, seemingly a team of destiny, on the brink of the most amazing World Series championship in baseball history.

Alfonso Soriano singled home Chuck Knoblauch with the winning run in the 12th inning and the three-time defending champion Yankees beat Arizona 3-2 here early Friday to seize a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven final.

Scott Brosius slammed a game-tying two-run homer with two out in the ninth inning, the second equalizer in a row off Arizona relief pitcher Kim Byung-Hyun of South Korea when the Yankees were only one out from defeat.

A city shaken to the core by the terrorist attacks September 11 that toppled the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center suddenly has a team that appears fated to win the crown, almost as if ordained by some higher power.

The Yankees won game four 4-3 here Wednesday when Tino Martinez tied the game with a two-run homer with two outs in the ninth and Derek Jeter won it with a two-out homer in the 10th.

There were only six equalizing ninth-inning homers in the first 567 World Series games, but the Yankees put together two in as many nights, both times down to their final out before making the magic happen.

The Yankees' work is not yet over as the 97th World Series shifts back to Phoenix for game six Saturday (Sunday in Manila) and a possible seventh game Sunday (Monday in Manila).

Left-hander Randy Johnson, a 21-game winner, throws for Arizona in game six Saturday against Yankee standout Andy Pettitte with 22-game winner Curt Schilling to face New York 20-game winner Roger Clemens on Sunday if needed.

Arizona's Kim, a 22-year-old sidearming right-hander, sought redemption when he entered in the ninth after Miguel Batista blanked the Yankees for 7 2/3 innings and Greg Swindell ended a New York threat in the eighth.

But Kim sealed his place among the greatest losers in Series annals, allowing a leadoff double to Jorge Posada and allowing the Brosius homer to force extra innings.

Had the Diamondbacks converted two outs when it mattered most, they might already own their first title. Instead they were incredibly struck by lightning in the same place twice.

Arizona inserted reliever Albie Lopez in the 12th and Knoblauch prompted tagged him for his first hit in 14 tries in the Series. Brosius sacrificed him into scoring position and Dominican rookie Soriano singled to left field to bring him home. *AFP*

Linescores:

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New York	000	000	002	001	3	9	1

Cheney passes away

ROME, Georgia—Tom Cheney, who set the major league record with 21 strikeouts in a 16-inning game, died. He was 67. Cheney died Thursday at Floyd Medical Center in Rome, according to a hospital spokeswoman, who had no other details. Cheney was pitching for Washington Senators on Sept. 12, 1962, when he went the distance in a 2-1 victory over Baltimore, striking out 21. *AP*

Palos Verdes hosts Tour

THE NEWLY opened Rancho Palos Verdes in Mandug/Indanga, Davao makes its debut as venue of the Sta. Lucia Tour 2001 when it hosts the Mindanao leg of the popular course-hopping series on Nov. 8-10.

The 200 campaigners of the circuit organized by real estate giant Sta. Lucia exclusively for clubs flying its corporate banner will be making a new island stop as Palos Verdes completes a historic nationwide trio of host venues.

Flying in from Manila and Cebu, the players representing the four other clubs in the roster play their practice rounds on Thursday, Nov. 8 before the 36-hole competitions on Nov. 9-10 at the Andy Dye-designed layout.

"Palos Verdes will be an entirely new challenge for most of the field," said Palos Verdes general manager Joe Marfori. "It's a big honor for us to be able to be given the chance to host the Tour."

Though Palos Verdes has yet to make its big move on Tour, its players should gain some headway in the individual event.

Co-sponsors of the event are Golforce Inc., Gainers Marketing, Atlanta Industries, Kubota Agro-Ind. Machinery Phils., Unirock, Readycon, Club Car, Omega, Yamaha/Kart Plaza, Philippine Airlines, Kodak Digital Camera, Semicon, Neltex, Canscor Construction and Dev't, Inc. and Anako for this year's tour. Official hotels are Hyatt for Manila, Cebu Plaza for Cebu and Marco Polo for Davao.

The other four teams vying for the Sta. Lucia Cup which will be given to the club with the best performance in the whole series are Alta Vista, Eagle Ridge, Orchard and Royale Tagaytay.

Alta Vista hosted the Visayas leg last September while Orchard staged the second leg last month. Eagle Ridge will be the venue of the final leg this December.

Vicente Santos and Winnie Gob, the chair and vice chair of the executive committee handling the event, said that while battle heats up out in the different courses, the excitement over the many prizes in the year-end raffle intensifies.

Woods injures back

HOUSTON—Bernhard Langer, back at the Tour Championship for the first time in 14 years, shot a 6-under-par 65 for a share of the lead.

Tiger Woods' return to Champions Golf Club only brought him more pain Thursday.

Woods injured his lower right back and struggled through the opening round, squatting to stick his tee in the ground and retrieve his ball from the cup, grimacing every time he tried to hit a big drive.

"I just wanted to stay in contention and shoot something under par," Woods said.

He managed that, a 1-under 70 that left him five strokes behind Langer and Frank Lickliter in a season-ending tournament that featured the walking wounded. *AP*

UP golf challenge Nov. 9

THE UP High School Batch '76 alumni, in cooperation with the UP Elementary school batch '71 alumni, will hold the UP Quad Golf Challenge 2001 at the Capitol Hills Golf and Country Club on Friday, Nov. 9.

More than 100 alumni and lady golfers from UP High school, UP Preparatory school, UP Integrated School and UP Elementary School are expected to tee off as early as 7 a.m.

For registration and inquiries, please call Jorge Buenaventura at 893-6657 or Yay Topacio at 0917-5354491. Proceeds of the tournament will be donated to the UP Integrated School and will be used to fund the grand alumni reunion homecoming in December this year.

RP youth chessers advance

JOUQUIN Banawa and Arianne Caoili entered the Top 10 of their respective categories with convincing victories in the penultimate round of the 2001 World Youth Chess Championship here in Oropesa del Mar, Spain on Thursday. Banawa beat 10th seeded Ante Brkic 2330 of Croatia in 59 moves of a King's Indian Defense for his fifth straight win to climb to sixth place in the Boys-Under 14. Caoili trounced Alexandria Stiri 2163 of Greece in 40 moves of a Sicilian-Maroczy Bind to advance to fifth place in the Girls-Under 18 category.

Lucky 5

NOTABLE names that dot the active (12).and injured (maximum of three) on the rosters of the 29 NBA clubs at the start of the 2001-02 regular season last Oct. 31 (Manila time) include five players with previous PBA experience.

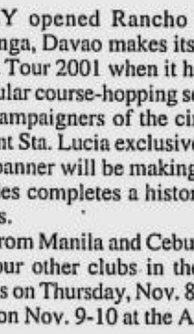
The lucky five are Charlotte's Eldridge Recasner, Miami's Sam Mack, New York's Larry Robinson, Portland's Rick Brunson and Sacramento's Jamie Watson.

Robinson and Brunson opened the season on the injured list, which means both will be sidelined for at least the first five games of their club's campaign.

Recasner is in the final year of a four-year, $5-million contract with the Hornets. Last season, the 6-4 backcourter hit at a 2.4-point clip in 43 games off the bench for the Hive.

Before latching on with Charlotte in 1998-99, Recasner had NBA stops in Denver, Houston and Atlanta. The 33-year-old product of the University of Washington also spent time in the Continental Basketball Associaton, where he was voted league MVP in 1995 while leading the Yakima Sun Kings to the championship, and saw action in the Global Basketball Association, German and Turkish leagues. Furthermore, Recasner had a three-game stint with defunct Presto in the PBA in 1992.

NBA NOTES


Henry Liao

Mack is back in the NBA after a one-year forced leave. The 6-7 swingman is playing for his fifth team in seven seasons, having toiled previously in San Antonio, Houston, Vancouver and Golden state.

Owner of an NBA career scoring norm of 8.0 points in 247 regular appearances, including three seasons of double-figure averages, the 31-year-old Mack was a one-game wonder for Sta. Lucia Realty in 1995.

Robinson, who also is in his seventh NBA season, is another journeyman with previous stops in Washington (thrice, Golden State, Boston, Houston, Vancouver, Atlanta (twice) and Cleveland. Last campaign, the 6-3, 33-year-old guard registered a career-high 5.9 markers in a combined 34 games with the Hawks and Cavaliers. Robinson suited up for San Miguel in 1997 and 1998 and Mobiline in 1999.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

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Race 2—1. Windy City 2. Halo Effect
Race 3—1. The Dominator 2. Men of Honor 3. Born Perfect 4. Sumasagitsit 5. Diva
Race 4—1. Be Quiet 2. Gemstone 3. El Duque 4. Khan Caloo 5. Gutmoore
Race 5—1. Silver Eagle 2. Hearts on Fire 3. She's So Sure 4. Happy Return 5. Chances Are
Race 6—1. Rapid Strike 2. Super Dancer 3. Miggy's Cap 4. Rose in Bloom 5. Precious Janina 6. Wassapenin
Race 7—1. Sweet Topic 2. Howard Huge 3. Gold Prosperity
Race 8—1. Play By Ear 2. Specatacular Lady 3. Security Risk 4. Time and Again 5. Silver Lining
Race 9—1. Fair Ringer 2. Beatutudes 3. Wishing Well 4. Come In Glory 5. Red Hahn
Race 10—1. D Greatest 2. Playing with Fire 3. That's My Tiger 4. Demolition Jack 5. Dressed to Impress
Race 11—1. High and Mighty 2. Respect the Ace 3. War General 4. Miss Sleween 5. Pep Talk
Race 12—1. Snake Prince 2. Pacific Dancer 3. Little Red 4. Gallant Rose 5. Rock's Dragon
Race 13—1. Accurized 2. Rumaragasa 3. Annihilator 4. Spectacular Queen 5. Cherry Lane 6. All Powerful

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BILLIARDS: LG Flatron Challenge—Efren Reyes vs Jeanette Lee at 3 p.m. on IBC 13
2001 International Challenge of Champions, Finals at 5 p.m. (r – 9 p.m.) on ESPN
Sudden Death 7-Ball Billiards at 8 p.m. on ESPN
GOLF: U.S. Open Official Films—1980 at 11 a.m. (r) on ESPN

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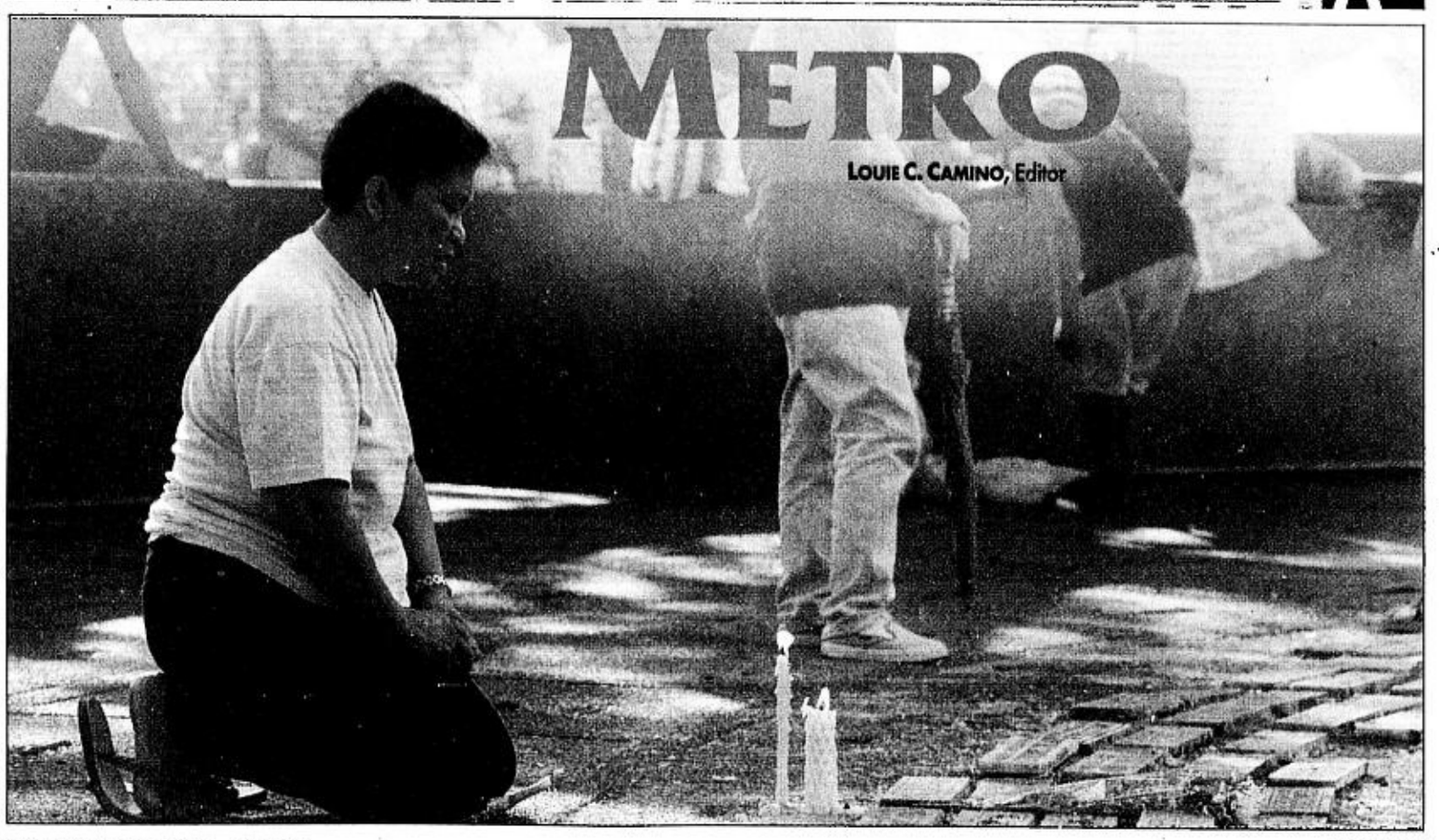
METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor



THE MORNING AFTER ERIK ARAZAS

Peace and quiet and air that's a bit cleaner witness the silent prayer of this unidentified woman who decided to visit her loved one's graves at the North Cemetery the day after All Saints' Day, when the crowd is thinner and there's more sincere praying than merrymaking.

NBA Games on free TV

BY LEAH SALTERIO

IN RESPONSE to the protests of thousands of cable subscribers who failed to see the opening of the NBA games last Wednesday, NBN Channel 4 president and chair Mia Concio yesterday announced that the games would be seen on free TV starting tomorrow, Nov. 4.

NBN 4, formerly People's TV Network, will air the NBA series until July 2002.

"NBN will be the exclusive network of the NBA Games' regular season, the all-star games and the finals on free TV," Concio said in a statement.

NBA/ A18

'Policemen in QC ambush could not have done it on their own'

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

CENTRAL Police District investigators are looking into the possible involvement of senior police officials in the Oct. 18 ambush-robbery of a cellular phone trader in Quezon City where six policemen were implicated in the attack.

"It is quite impossible to believe that these men acted on their own," a CPD investigator told the **Inquirer**. "With this kind of criminal activity, some high ranking officers could be involved."

The inquest prosecutor recommended no bail for PO3 Reynaldo Cervano, PO3 Rogelio Santos, PO1 James Duro, PO1 Eugene Teston, and PO1 Nicomedes Flores after they were charged with robbery with homicide before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

A sixth policeman, SPO1 Roberto Rusit, was killed in a shootout with the victim, cellular phone trader Noli Sotoza.

Sotoza and his partner, Imelda Olan, identified the five policemen as the men who ambushed them.

Olan said she received a similar report from a relative of one of the suspects who was willing to talk.

"(The relative) claimed that some officials are involved in the group's activities and that she knows the details of their (officials') involvement," she said.

Sotoza, Olan and Sotoza's cousin Maher were transporting millions of pesos worth of cellular phones and accessories on board a Ford Expedition and a Toyota Tamaraw FX when the rogue policemen blocked them at Cecilia Street in New Manila.

Sotoza shot it out with the suspects and got hurt in the exchange. He managed to drive himself to St. Luke's Hospital where he recovered.

> 'Some high ranking officers could be involved,' says CPD source

Maher was on board the FX, which was filled with cellular phones, when the suspects commandeered the vehicle. He was later found dead in Las Piñas.

Olan also told the **Inquirer** that two civilians, identified only as Bobby and Randy, were former tenants of Shoppesville in Greenhills and were the ones who tipped off the suspects on the movements of the cell phone traders.

Olan and Sotoza own a shop in Greenhills.

The same group also robbed at least seven other traders in Greenhills, Olan said.

CPD sources said Randy is a close relative of a former vice mayor of Noveleta, Cavite and a close friend of suspect Santos.

Olan said Santos was the one who shot Sotoza.

All the suspected policemen used to be members of the national police's Special Action Force based in Fort Sto. Domingo, Laguna. They were also implicated in other crimes in the past, said a CPD investigator who refused to be identified.

Santos is said to be involved in jueteng operations in Cavite, the investigator added.

Inspector Noly Asuncion, an officer of the SAF in Laguna, told CPD investigators that on Oct. 18, Santos took along M16 rifles with him when he left that night.

The investigators believed the guns were the ones used by the group in the ambush-robbery.

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3 912-89 83

Bentains give up hope of ever finding Edgar

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

AFTER three All Saints' Day have gone, all hope of finding missing Casino Filipino employee Edgar Bentain alive has also gone for his family.

Bentain's younger brother Edcel said on Thursday that he and his family had given up hope since the government does not seem to be serious or even interested in finding who were behind Bentain's abduction and apparent murder.

"We're very, very disappointed with the government," Edcel told the INQUIRER. "We can't expect justice even under this administration. It was all lip service."

Even President Macapagal-Arroyo herself could not give a "definite answer" on what her government would do with the case during a meeting with the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption last week, according to Edcel.

He said he and VACC chief Dante Jimenez, Lauro Vizconde, and lawyer Argee Guevarra went to Malacañang to personally follow up the case, but all the President supposedly did was to refer their queries to Justice Secretary Hernando Perez "for lack of background information."

The Bentains commemorated All Saints' Day by lighting candles and saying prayers for Edgar. This has been their practice since the casino employee was abducted by heavily armed men in front of Grand Boulevard Hotel on Jan. 16, 1999.

A civil society group yesterday erected a makeshift shrine on Quezon Avenue for Bentain and 2,000 other *desaparecidos,* those who have disappeared since 1972, according to Edcel.

"It's a pity that desaparecidos like Edgar don't even have a place during All Saint's Day since they're missing," he said.

Edcel was particularly dismayed over his brother's case after National Bureau of Investigation agents supposedly informed him that they "are again starting from scratch."

NBI chief Reynaldo Wycoco had ordered Edmund Arugay, the bureau's director for Metro Manila, to lead the Bentain investigation, Edcel said.

But Arugay himself allegedly told the Bentains that he and his men would need to check the background of the case all over again "since we are like newborn kids...all we have are based only on newspaper reports."

Edcel said he and his family found hope when President Joseph Estrada was ousted from office and when his successor promised to unmask Bentain's abductors and killers.

Ms Macapagal herself had admitted that there were attempts to "stonewall" the Bentain investigation during the previous administration.

The hope was bolstered when Angelo "Ador" Mawanay surfaced and claimed that he had participated in the abduction and killing of Bentain. Mawanay claimed ex-national police chief Sen. Panfilo Lacson ordered Bentain's killing for releasing in 1998 a video tape of Estrada, then a presidential candidate, playing baccarat in a hotel casino.

Lacson's men, Superintendents Cesar Mancao and Michael Ray Aquino, allegedly led the liquidation squad that was supposedly funded by Jude Estrada, the ousted president's son by Sen. Loi Estrada.

"Now we have lost the momentum," Edcel said. "The investigation, if there is any, has been going in circles and investigators are very pessimistic on ever finding Edgar and unmasking his killers."

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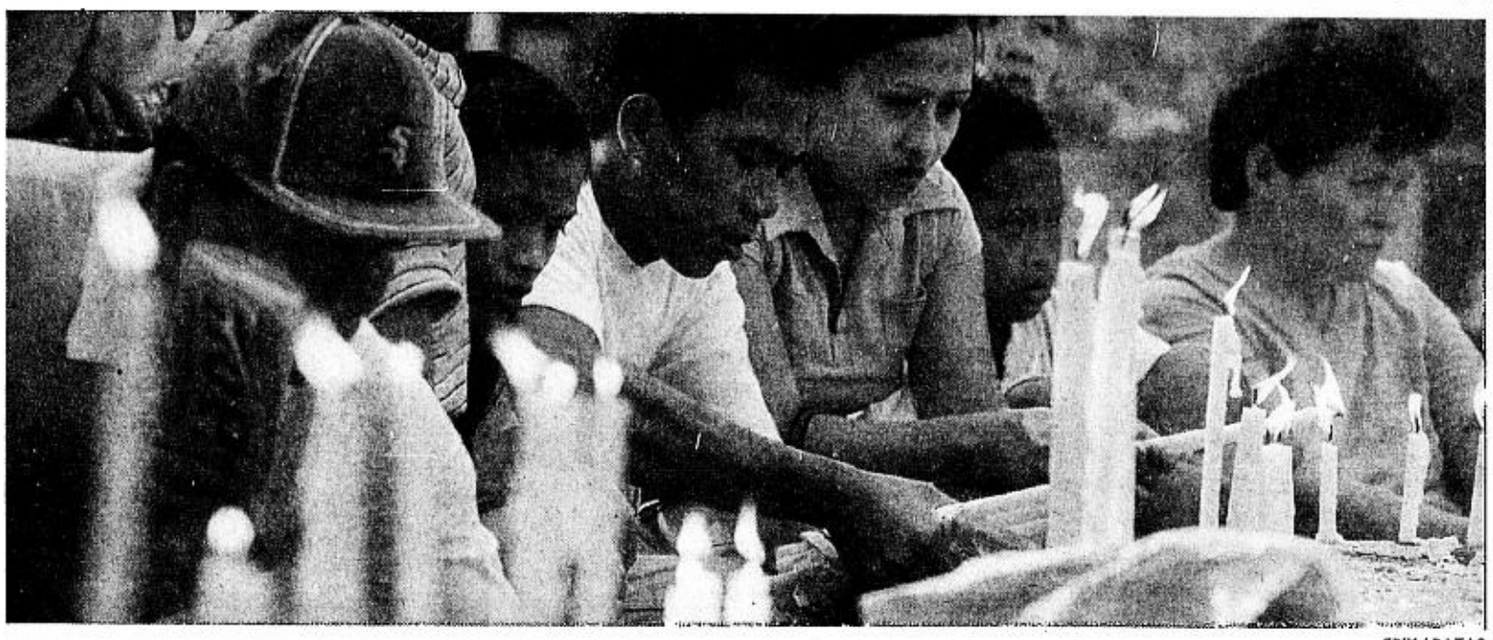
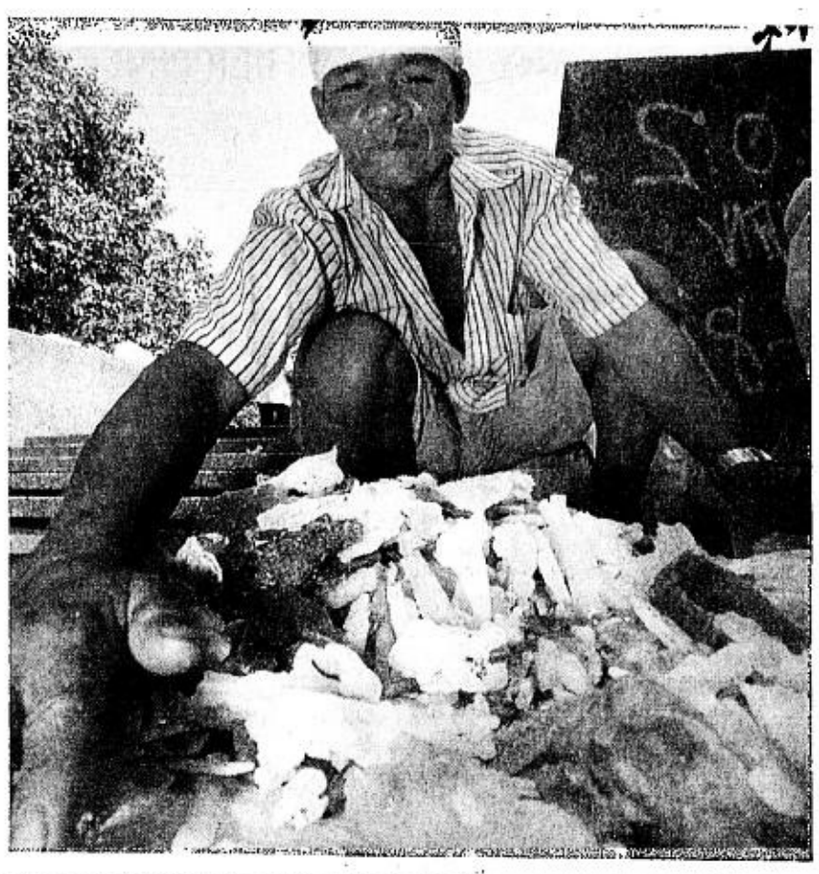


ERIK ARAZAS

CANDLES FOR THE DEAD AND THE LIVING

People who came to the graveyards yesterday, the day after All Saints' Day, said their prayers and lighted candles for the departed ones at the North Cemetery, to the delight of children and the man at right, who collected melted wax for recycling.



'I want justice,' says kidnapping survivor

BY JEROME ANING

"I'VE been fighting for seven years and I want justice."

Businesswoman Agnes Guirindola made this appeal as she urged the government to be resolute in its position on capital punishment and carry out the execution of one Robert Gungon, one of three men who abducted and robbed her but failed to kill her in 1997.

In a phone interview, Guirindola expressed disappointment that Malacañang could not make up its mind on whether to execute or not her convicted assailant. She also bewailed that the Department of Justice no longer keeps in touch to appraise her of the death convict's fate.

"The government should declare once and for all where it stands (regarding the death penalty)," she told the INQUIRER. "I'm practically playing it by ear during these past few days."

Gungon was among the six kidnappers whose death sentences were reportedly commuted by former President Joseph Estrada. But Guirindola said she has yet to be formally notified that such a commutation had been ordered.

On Jan. 12, 1994, Guirindola, then a 20-year-old De La Salle University student, was driving her car on Panay Avenue in Quezon City when she was abducted at gunpoint by Gunong, an MMDA traffic personnel, and two other men.

They brought her to Sto. Tomas, Batangas and took her money and jewelry. After escorting her to a deserted area so she could urinate, they shot her in the face.

But Guirindola survived after residents found her and brought her to a hospital.

Agents of the National Bureau of Investigation arrested Gunong in Davao the following month.

On Feb. 15, 1995, Quezon City Regional Trial Court Judge Lucas Bersamin gave Gungon the death penalty after finding him guilty of kidnapping and serious illegal detention with frustrated murder.

Police also later arrested Venancio Roxas, one of Gungon's accomplices.

The Supreme Court upheld Gungon's conviction on March 19, 1998.

He was supposed to be executed on Aug. 25, 2000, Guirindola said. But five days before the execution, the DOJ notified her that Estrada granted Gungon a reprieve "for further review of possible (grant of) presidential clemency."

Before he was ousted by People Power II, Estrada issued a moratorium on all executions.

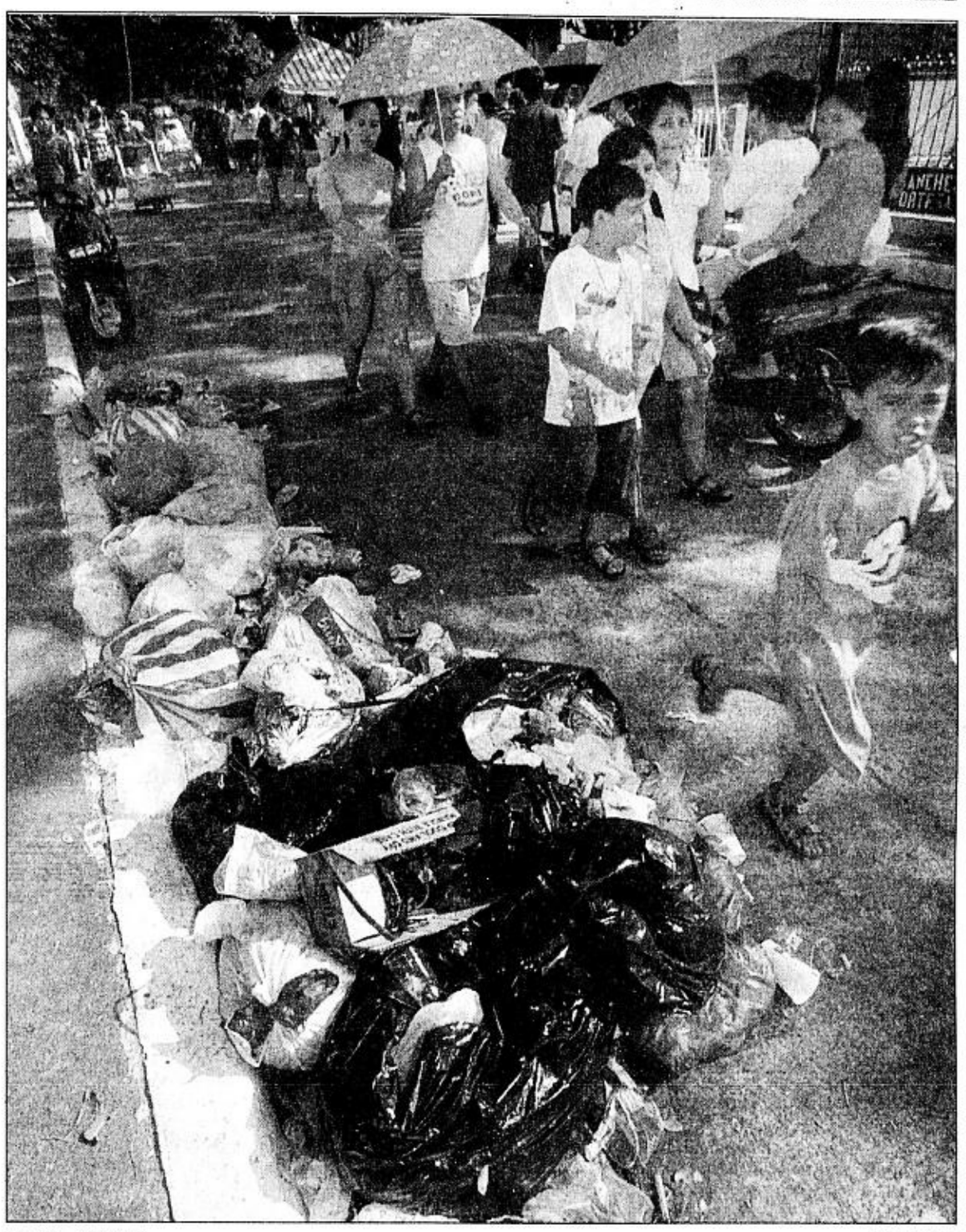
Guirindola said she wonders if necessary paperwork on the moratorium was made, since the DOJ had not informed her of the commutation.

She said she was surprised when she learned that Gungon was among the six convicted kidnappers whose commutations President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo wanted to recall.

The President later withdrew her declaration after her advisers told her that she cannot recall commutations issued by her predecessor.

Guirindola said that if Gungon's sentence was not commuted, the President should uphold the death penalty law and carry out his execution.

Article 81 of the Revised Penal Code, as amended by Republic Act No. 8177, provides that death sentences should be carried out not earlier than one year or later than 18 months after the judgment has become final and executory. This is without prejudice to the exercise by the President of his executive clemency powers at all times.



ERIK ARAZAS

DIRT ROAD

A heap of garbage left behind by All Saints' Day revelers greet visitors on the street leading to the North Cemetery on Friday, All Souls' Day.

Driver stabbed dead by 2 men

DRIVER Nino J. Vasquez, 22, of Tondo, Manila, was killed after truck helper Edgardo V. Matunog, 32, and his brother-in-law Abbat F. Oracion, 34, stabbed him dead on Oct. 31, said SP01 Virgo Villareal, of the Western Police District homicide section.

Vasquez's mother Fhely told police Matunog, who was armed with a knife, came to their house about 4 p.m. on Wednesday, looking for her son, who was then playing at a nearby billiard hall.

She said Matunog then went to the billiard hall and stabbed her son in the chest. When Vasquez fell, Oracion appeared and pressed the knife deeper into Vasquez's body.

But witnesses told police Vasquez and Matunog were both armed with knives and fought with each other inside the billiard hall. They said Vasquez even stabbed Matunog in the knee. Police arrested both Matunog and Oracion.

Philip C. Tubeza

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Japanese in Makati 'suicide' was to leave for HK, cops say

BY ALCUIN PAPA

THE JAPANESE woman who fell to her death in Makati on Thursday was scheduled to leave for Hong Kong that same day and had even made an appointment for a car to take her to the airport, police said.

"Even we are wondering why she would do this when she was due to leave the same day," said investigator Leonardo Timtiman of the Makati Police.

Yoko Arimoto, 31, an assistant representative of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency, was picked up by the security monitors of the 27-storey Asian Tower Condominium on Paseo de Roxas, Makati, taking the elevator to the 26th floor at 8:22 a.m., just minutes before she fell, investigator Lewelie Cristobal said.

Arimoto's body was discovered about 8:30 a.m. by security guards of the adjacent Asian Institute of Management also on Paseo de Roxas.

Cristobal refused to rule her death a suicide until police are certain that no one had been waiting for her on the top floor of the building.

Police are also puzzled why Arimoto, from the Wakayama prefecture in southern Japan, had to go up to the top floor when she could have easily jumped from out of the window of her condominium unit.

Aside from the wounds on the victim's hands and legs, police also noted that Arimoto's feet were dirty, something they found unnatural for a Japanese.

Another angle police are looking into is her problem with her boyfriend in Japan.

One investigator who refused to be identified said Arimoto became depressed when she learned that her boyfriend would be marrying someone else next week.

That could have pushed her to commit suicide, the investigator added.

Arimoto's driver, Adriano Comia, 45, told police that he had not seen the victim in the company of a man since he started working for her. *With AFP*

NBA Games . . . (From page A17)

The games will be seen on Thursdays, 10 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., right after NBN's primetime newscast, "Tele-Dyaryo," and on Sundays, 9-11:30 p.m.

Concio and NBN network manager Jose Isabelo signed a blocktime contract with William Tieng and Peter Chanliong of Solar Entertainment for this year's American basketball season.

SkyCable and Home Cable subscribers complained Wednesday when they failed to see the much-awaited return to the hardcourt of basketball superstar Michael Jordan.

Jordan is now playing for the Washington Wizards. His team will play again tomorrow in their homecourt against the Philadelphia 76ers.

Last month, Star TV pulled out 10 channels from SkyCable and Home Cable, including the popular sports channel ESPN, which airs the NBA Games live.

Star TV refuses to resume its services unless SkyCable and Home Cable agree to renegotiate and settle their debt amounting to $3.1 million or P160 million.

Hundreds of SkyCable and Home Cable viewers have switched to Destiny, which has a secure contract with Star TV.

"The fuss over the NBA telecast has been settled for now," Concio said. "Only NBN will carry the entire series on free TV."

NBN will also air the Philippine Basketball League (PBL) series which starts today at the Makati Coliseum. Games between Ateneo and La Salle will open the season.

METROBRIEFS

Paralyzed

DELIVERY boy Jinkel Marcial, 24, of Roosevelt Avenue in Quezon City, could be paralyzed for life after Rafael Librado, 19, of Alabang, Muntinlupa, a spurned suitor of his cousin Josephine Ibagat, 23, had him shot yesterday morning in Muntinlupa, police said. Marcial was hit in the spinal column. Police arrested Librado, but the gunman, identified only as Neneth, escaped. *Christian V. Esguerra*

Gun theft

POLICE on Thursday arrested Ruperto Catre Jr., 29, of Leningrad Street in BF Homes, Parañaque, and his companions Remigio Pontillas, 34, and Christopher Platilla, 21, both of Welferville, Mandaluyong, for allegedly seizing the firearm of Antonio Jaculbi, 30, a security guard of Rotondo Lodge in Pasay City. Police said Catre introduced himself as an Army officer assigned with the Office of the President in Malacañang and an inspector of the Security Agencies and Guard Supervision when he asked Jaculbi to hand over his gun. When Jaculbi refused, the suspects seized the gun and were about to escape but were arrested by PO3 Ariel Barroga Inson of the Pasay Police intelligence branch, who saw the incident. Police found on the suspects two unlicensed .38 revolvers and at least 12 live ammunition. The suspects are facing charges of robbery and illegal possession of firearms and ammunition. *Christian V. Esguerra*

Death by cleanser

WHILE Arthur John Ignacio, 18, was drinking with friends about lunchtime on Wednesday, his daughter Lady Bianca Ignacio, one year and three months old, drank liquid cleanser for jewelry in their house in Tondo, Manila. Police said the child's mother, Neneth Ignacio-Tolentino, 19, had left her alone in their house for about five minutes and found her struggling to breathe when she returned. The Ignacios rushed their baby to the Ospital Ng Tondo where she was declared dead on arrival. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Accident

WHEN Alexander Acosta visited his dead relatives in the cemetery on Thursday, he ended up dead himself after his orange scooter (FF 3221) collided with a maroon Nissan Sentra car (WEM 417) driven by Rogelio de la Rosa, 45, in Las Piñas, police said. The impact caused the scooter to go over the sidewalk and hit Nene Granado, 41, Racquel Adriano, 34, and Venus Maravillas, 38, all residents of CAA Compound in Las Piñas. Acosta's companion Ismael Escober, 20, was also hurt. Acosta died from head and body injuries. *Christian V. Esguerra*

COMPOSTING

Giving back what belongs to the earth

BY JOEY PAPA
Contributor

ALL Souls' Day should remind us of the continuing cycle of life, a reminder that embraces not only human life but all of life on this planet.

As we were formed from the earth, as the Bible says, when our mortal journey is over we are sent back to the earth, from which new life emerges.

No matter what we believe about our origin and our destination, we can learn from Nature's ways and its laws on sustaining life, as summarized in the seven environment principles (from the Miriam Peace environment education series): Nature knows best. All forms of life are important. Everything is connected to everything else. Everything changes. Everything must go somewhere. Our earth is finite (some resources are renewable but others are not). Nature is beautiful and we are stewards of the Creator's unparalleled creation.

These are also the reasons for composting biodegradable wastes from the kitchen, the garden, from animals and humans.

To compost, cover biodegradable waste with soil. Expose to some sunlight and air. Moisten with water. The action of these elements together, plus that of bacteria and other microbes that are sure to set into the mixture, will soon turn all the biowaste into enhanced soil or compost.

Keep it safe from strong rains. To hasten composting, mix in some natural additives or activators. This will also ensure that the mixture is odor-free.

Sacks

Bert Guevarra, barangay captain of Sun Valley, Parañaque City, says a sack composter has worked well for his group.

A sack is convenient for homes and communities with hardly any space. Because the sack weave has small openings, this also allows for ample aeration of the mixture inside.

Have at least three sacks. Put some soil in the bottom of the first sack then drop in the kitchen discards or leftovers. Cover with enough soil to prevent odor and to keep it safe from cats, dogs, flies, rats, cockroaches. Moisten with water. See to it that the sack gets some sun light or heat. If this is not possible, at least there should be air.

When composting for organic fertilizer, it is best to use food, plant, or animal waste. Used and wet toilet paper, small bits of used paper, sanitary pads and disposable diapers with the plastic wrapping or liners removed may also be composted, but use another sack as these wastes contain chemicals that will taint the compost for organic fertilizer.

Follow the alternate soil-biowaste-soil mixing process when working with biowaste. When the sack is full, set it aside while you fill up a second sack. When the second sack is full, the contents of the first sack will have turned into compost.

Get a third sack. Put in some of the already enhanced soil or compost from the first sack. Again, follow the same process until you fill up the sack while emptying the contents of the first sack. This first sack you will use again in the next batch of biodegradable waste, using the compost of the second sack for mixing.

Pits and pots

If you have enough ground space and wish to dig compost pits, two pits should each be one square meter wide by one square meter deep. Set aside the soil in a sack or other available container. You will use this little by little to cover the biowaste that you throw into the pit.

Follow the basic procedure as described above. Cover the pits when it rains hard.

For a long time, the Zero Waste Recycling Movement has also been espousing the use of 10 big clay pots which, I recall, is the choice of Emily Marcelo, co-anchor of "Kalikasan Vigilantes" on dzBR, and of the Mother Earth group.

Manang Luz Sabas, founder of the ZWR Movement, recently suggested a modification: Set two big or four small tires on top of at least four hollow blocks laid side by side forming a square.

When the contents of one tire have turned into compost, it is easy to pull out one hollow block to release the soil at the bottom. Use this to cover your next batch of biowaste.

Cans, plastic bags, or other such containers may also be used.

Large-scale

In communities where there are many commercial or institutional establishments such as government and private offices, markets, schools, restaurants, hospitals and the like, large-scale composting follows the basic rules of small-scale composting. However, shredders or hammer mills are used to reduce the biodegradable waste particles into the minutest size, and big mixer or rotary composter drums and additives or activators to hasten the composting process.

The community may designate a "bio-person" to collect and bring the biowaste to the eco-center or materials recovery facility. This facility should be set up to serve a cluster of communities in all areas of the country. It provides for the systematic sorting, segregation, composting, re-use and recycling of community waste. It also prevents the forming of dumpsites.

These processes must basically start in the home so that everybody learns his or her lesson in ecology and the values that matter in keeping ourselves, our society, and our environment clean and in good shape.

Dying a decent death is costly

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

LIKE the cost of living, the price of dying has gone sky high.

A random survey conducted on different funeral parlors and cemeteries showed that paying for funeral services, burial or cremation would add more grief to bereaved families.

Even the simplest middle class burial without the elaborate service could be a drain in the pocket as this writer recently found out after the death of a family member.

From a low of P60,000 to a high of P200,000 is the price range of a burial with all the traditional trimmings.

A more elaborate service—which includes a bronze or copper casket, chapel services in a high-end funeral parlor and burial in a posh memorial park—could cost as much as P300,000 to over half a million pesos.

Even the "*masa*" could probably not afford a "*masa*" burial when the cheapest casket costs from P10,000 to P15,000, and a cemetery plot in private memorial parks costs from P25,000 to P75,000.

Apartment-type tombs at the Manila North Cemetery are priced lower—from P1,200 to P4,500—depending on how long the body would remain buried.

When a member of this writer's family died recently, the family was still reeling from the financial burden of the loved-one's lingering illness. Before the family could cope emotionally with his death, we had to face the immediate problem of where to take the body from the emergency room of the hospital where he was taken.

Taking the advice of a friend whose father had died a month earlier, the family sought the services of a memorial chapel on Quezon Avenue.

For P60,000, the funeral parlor offered to take care of everything—from picking up the body to embalming, dressing the corpse in barong tagalog, providing the amenities during the three-day wake, processing necessary permits and documentation and later bringing the remains to the crematorium.

The family was somewhat blessed that a sister in the United States shouldered most of the expenses.

For his son's casket, a born again pastor paid P150,000. The pastor's son was one of the victims in the Quezon City Manor Hotel fire, and his expensive casket was the family's way of giving their last tribute to their son. The rest of the funeral rites were simple.

At the St. Peter's Memorial Chapels on Quezon Avenue, the cheapest burial service costs P15,000. It includes only a wooden casket and a three-day wake at a small chapel without air conditioning.

Flowers for the funeral are also pricey: from P300 for a small bouquet to as much as P5,000 for an elaborate wreath.

Then there's the cost for food for those who would attend the wake and other operational expenses.

The Norsam Memorial Chapel in Tandang Sora, Quezon City, offers a package about 50 percent cheaper than other memorial chapels in the city.

The cheapest package is at P12,000, which includes a piece of lot with a tomb at the Bagbag public cemetery in Novaliches.

As usual, the hardest hit by the high cost of dying are those living below the poverty line.

In depressed areas, the wake becomes a venue for gambling, a fund-raising the impoverished living have do to bury its dead.

DYING costs the living, even after the dead are buried.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, November 3, 2001
30th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Rom 11:1-2, 11-12, 25-29
Gospel: Lk 14:1, 7-11

One sabbath Jesus had gone to eat a meal in the house of a leading Pharisee, and he was carefully watched.

Jesus then told a parable to the guests, for he had noticed how they tried to take the places of honor. And he said, "When you are invited to a wedding party, do not choose the best seat. It may happen that someone more important than you has been invited, and your host, who invited both of you, will come and say to you: 'Please give this person your place.' What shame is yours when you take the lowest seat!

Whenever you are invited, go rather to the lowest seat, so that your host may come and say to you: 'Friend, you must come up higher.' And this will be a great honor for you in the presence of all the other guests. For whoever makes himself out to be great will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be raised."

Commentary

*The host is a leader of the Pharisees, like one of our prominent churchmen today. It was customary to invite a preacher to a meal after the Sabbath service. As dinner is served, we note a familiar banquet scene in a Graeco-Roman city. In this culture, people valued honor and status very highly. Now they are seeking the seats of honor. Jesus corrects their vanity and proposes Christian etiquette before God. Self-worth is God's disposition alone. We have to wait for the place or rank he assigns to us. For the Christian, the ground of self-worth is not self-esteem or respect from others, but solely God's love. Because God loves those who love Jesus, Christians experience self-worth.***Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cnl.net; Websites:http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)**

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

POLITICAL LAW (CONSTITUTIONAL LAW/ADMINISTRATIVE LAW)—Doctrine of separation of powers/Quasi-judicial functions— Quasi-judicial functions is a term which applies to the actions, discretion, etc. of public administrative officers or bodies, who are required to investigate facts, or ascertain the existence of facts, hold hearings, and draw conclusions from them, as a basis for their official action and to exercise discretion of a judicial nature. Administrative agencies are not considered courts; they are neither part of the judicial system nor are they deemed judicial tribunals. The doctrine of separation of powers reposes 3 great powers into its 3 branches—the legislative, the executive and the judiciary—each department being co-equal and coordinate, and supreme in its own sphere. Accordingly, the executive department may not, by its own fiat, impose the judgment of one of its own agencies, upon the judiciary. Indeed, under the expanded jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, it is empowered "to determine whether or not there has been grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack of or excess of jurisdiction on the part of any branch or instrumentality of the government." [Justice De Leon, Jr., Second Division, United Residents of Dominican Hills, Inc. v. Commission on the Settlement of Land Problems, G.R. No. 135945, March 7, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

PDI environmental campaigns cited

FOR its environmental campaigns that created awareness and were a call to action for environmental preservation through the "socially-conscious use of the power and reach of its publication," the Philippine Daily Inquirer was recently given a special citation by the Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA).

Given during the Oct. 24 ceremony in Ateneo de Manila, the special citation was on top of the three major awards the INQUIRER won in the print media category.

The newspaper's stories and campaigns on environmental preservation had been lauded not only by pro-environment groups but also by government officials and private institutions for its impact in the community.

Since the 1990s, the INQUIRER has been running stories that raised public awareness on endangered species, particularly the whale sharks found in the Philippine seas.

The publication of the series of stories on *butanding* (local name of the shark in Bicol) resulted in the enactment of local ordinances that prohibit the catching and slaughtering of sharks and dolphins.

One of the corporate partners of World Wildlife Philippines, the **Inquirer** actively takes part in a series of advertising campaigns dubbed Wildlife Alive, aimed to protect and conserve marine mammals.

Other WWF-Philippines conservation allies are Nokia-Philippines, Megaworld Corp. and International Container Terminal Services Inc.

A "P1-million gift to the environment," to be paid annually for three years to the WWF-Philippines Conservation Ally, will fund projects on whale shark research and conservation, the Pamilacan Island whale and dolphin watching village and the Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park, a World Heritage Site and the primary source of marine life that supplies the fisheries of the Sulu Sea.

It will also fund the research and conservation of the dugong, the country's "most endangered marine mammal;" Mt. Guiting-Guiting Natural Park on Sibuyan Island; and the Conservation Science Research and Extension project in Subic Bay, Zambales.

Last June, INQUIRER also launched a "New Paper" drive to address the environmental and economic challenges the country and the local newspaper industry are facing.

The paper drive drew overwhelming public support that INQUIRER had collected more than 96,000 kilos of old newspapers and tabloids as of last week.

Over 200 institutions, organizations, parishes and schools and hundreds of households participated in the paper drive.

According to the Philippine Environmental Quality Report, the country's rainforests have been steadily shrinking over the last century.

At the turn of the century, the country had over 21 million hectares of forest cover, more than half of the country's total land area.

At present, there are only less than six million hectares of forest left, according to the Forest Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Paper production, which consumes about 10 to 17 trees for every ton of paper produced, is a principal contributing factor to deforestation.

Its consumption of large amounts of chlorine not only creates toxic fumes but also releases into the environment various carcinogenic compounds, such as dioxins, which have been linked to reduced reproductivity and genetic damage in humans.

Prior to the paper drive, the INQUIRER also made an effort to help reduce environmental pollutants through the use of 100 percent recycled newsprint and soy-based ink.

Aside from actively taking part in environmental preservation, the INQUIRER also consistently supports pro-environment non-government organizations like Piso Para sa Pasig and the Tour of the Fireflies. ***Andrea Trinidad-Echavez***

Muslims remember their dead all year long

BY JEROME ANING

UNLIKE Christians who flock to cemeteries once a year to visit their dead, Muslims remember their departed daily and offer prayers for them five times a day in mosques.

"We remember and pray for our dead every day and all year long," said Alim Abdul Majid Goling, administrator of the Quiapo Islamic Center, Manila's largest Muslim enclave.

Goling, who has been a resident of Quiapo for 20 years, said Muslims have their cemeteries on lots donated by affluent brothers.

The graves, he said, are usually ground level and bare only simple concrete or wooden markers inscribed with the names of the dead and words from the Koran.

Flowers, food offerings and candles are not allowed in Muslim cemeteries, Goling said.

And only men are allowed to visit the graves, a Muslim tradition that the Prophet Mohammad dictated himself.

Women, Goling said, are prohibited from going to cemeteries.

Since most Muslims in Manila hail from the provinces, many of them bury their dead in cemeteries in the provinces, Goling noted.

As far as Goling knows, there is only one Muslim cemetery in Metro Manila, located in Taguig's Maharlika Village, another predominantly Muslim community.

The Muslim religion also forbids autopsies on cadavers, and does not allow embalming or cremation, treating corpses as sacred, Goling said.

He said burial must take place within 24 hours after the time of death.

Following simple rites presided by the imam; a corpse is wrapped in white cloth and lowered into a sarcophagus, usually a grave lined with hollow blocks, Goling said.

Muslims, too, look at death as an entry to a new life. They believe that good people go to paradise and evil ones are damned in hell, so that if a good person dies, "his family is happy because he is going to paradise and will be in Allah's presence," Goling said.

Unlike Christians, Muslim souls in hell could still be rescued and brought to paradise if the living pray for them.

UP High grand reunion

"POSITIVE Connections" is this year's theme of the UP High Grand Reunion, led by UP High '76, on Dec. 8 at the high school multi-purpose hall.

The golden jubilarians of UP High '51 will be feted this year, according to Ruby Villavicencio-Paurom, president of UP High '76 Inc.

Dr. Rhodora Medina, a Ph.D. in geodetic engineering who has worked closely with the Ifugaos on mapping geodetic information system, will be the inspirational speaker. She is the sister of the late Rizalino "Bong" Medina, the batch president in 1976.

Dazzle Rivera, '76 batch convenor, said a batch memorabilia display will be mounted with the help of Mayita Subido.

Those with memorabilia items may call Dazzle at (0919) 796-1331 or Ruby at 453-4553.

UP Golf Quad Challenge 2001 is also being organized by the batch in cooperation with UP Elementary School Batch '71, with Ricky Santos as officer-in-charge.

All '76ers and other UP High graduates may call Ms. Luchie Socrates Collanta, programs committee chair, through Ramon Gutier-rez of the UP High Foundation at 929-7797, or Aleta at 931-1213, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

UST Law honors jubilarian

FORMER Senator Victor S. Ziga, president of the UST Law Alumni Foundation, Inc., is calling on all UST Law Alumni to attend the 267th annual reunion and homecoming on Nov. 24, 6:30 p.m., at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel Inter-Continental Manila.

Other officers of the alumni foundation are Atty. Roman Mabanta Jr., immediate past president; Alfredo Benipayo, chairman; Supreme Court Justice Angelina Gutierrez, 1st vice president; Judge Felix de Guzman, 2nd vice president; Muntinlupa City Councilor Raul Corro, 3rd vice president; Atty. Aleta Tolentino, treasurer; Atty. Rosalou Lamson, secretary; Atty. Carmen Talusan, assistant secretary; Atty. Elizabeth O. de Villa, auditor; Atty. Ma. Elena Francisco, assistant treasurer; assistant chief state prosecutor Apolinario Axevea, PRO; Atty. Luciano Borja, PRO; former Court of Appeals Justice Serafin Guingona, trustee; Atty. Benjamin Cabo-chan, trustee; Atty. Salvador B. Lao, trustee; Quezon City RTC Judge Monina Zenarosa, trustee; Quezon City RTC Judge Diosdado Peralta, trustee.

The honorees are Golden Jubilarians Class 1951; Ruby Jubilarians, Class 1961; Silver Jubilarians, Class 1976; Tin Jubilarians, Class 1991 and the new batch 2001 alumni.

The respective class coordinators are Dr. Amado Dimayuga, Atty. Reginaldo Oben, Commissioner Victoriano Calaycay, Atty. Edward Castaneda, Atty. Arnold Cacho and Atty. Adlen Gonzalez.

For more information, please contact Ms. Celi Hernaez at 849-2285, 818-6455; or Marinell at 721-7222.

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GLORIETTA 4
1 GHOST OF MARS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2 DON'T SAY A WORD in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 DON'T SAY A WORD THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 JAY & SILENT BOB STRIKE BACK in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 DOWN TO EARTH in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 LEGALLY BLONDE in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 TRAINING DAY in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
Art Film

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3 GHOST OF MARS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
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5 GHOST OF MARS
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4 DON'T SAY A WORD

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4 DOWN TO EARTH

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2 DOS EKIS
3
4

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2 SAKIM
3 ROSARIO 18
4 (DTS) GHOST OF MARS

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3 (DTS) DON'T SAY A WORD
4 HIYAS
5 DOWN TO EARTH

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2 GHOST OF MARS
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1 CLOSED

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4 TRAINING DAY
5 GHOST OF MARS
6 SILENT JAY BOB STRIKE
7 LEGALLY BLONDE
8 DOS EKIS
9 LEGALLY BLONDE
10 AMERICAN PIE 2

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12
1 GHOST OF MARS
2 LEGALLY BLONDE
3 TRAINING DAY
4 SILENT JAY BOB STRIKE
5 DOS EKIS
6 DOWN TO EARTH
7 DON'T SAY A WORD

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1 DON'T SAY A WORD
2 LEGALLY BLONDE
3 DOWN TO EARTH
4 DON'T SAY A WORD
5 DOS EKIS
6 DOS EKIS
7 GHOST OF MARS
8 SILENT JAY BOB STRIKE

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3 SAKIM
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5 DOWN TO EARTH
6 SILENT JAY BOB STRIKE

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MANILA

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ODEON-2	TRAINING DAY
ROBEN	HIYAS SA PARAISO
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TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	BROTHERHOOD / STOP

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HIYAS SA PARAISO
REMAR	DOS EKIS
REMAR-2	MANANABAS

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	SAKIM SA PAG IBIG
B	DOS EKIS
C	ROSARIO 18

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	DON'T SAY A WORD
CINEMA-2	LEGALLY BLONDE

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MARITAL RAPE
CINEMA-2	NAKED NIGHTS
CINEMA-3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	13 DAYS
CINEMA-6	SISID
CINEMA-7	LA VIDA ROSA
CINEMA-8	DOS EKIS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRAINING DAY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-12	THE BODY
CINEMA-14	MANANABAS
CINEMA-15	DOS EKIS

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	JAY & SILENT BOB STRIKE BACK
CINEMA-2	DOWN TO EARTH
CINEMA-3	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-4	GHOST OF MARS
CINEMA-5	TRAINING DAY
CINEMA-6	DON'T SAY A WORD

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	AMORSEKO
CINEMA-2	TOTAL AIKIDO
CINEMA-4	DIBDIBAN ANG LABAN

Center for street kids to rise in Munti

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

KEEP the children off the streets and you keep them from being thugs, criminals, or worse, terrorists in the future.

This premise is apparently behind the establishment of the country's first halfway house for Metro Manila's street children.

The people behind the efforts to put up the National Center for Children, hopefully by mid-2002, believe that they all came together with the blessing of some greater force.

The organizers found out, for instance, that the 1.1 hectares where the center will be standing in Alabang, Muntinlupa City is part of the St. Jerome parish.

Speaker Jose de Venecia and Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman pointed out that St. Jerome happens to be the patron saint of needy and abandoned children.

The organizers, led by the Congressional Spouses Foundation Inc., had not known this when they decided to move the project to Muntinlupa in southern Metro Manila from Marikina City in the east.

"We're all instruments of a greater force," concluded Soliman during the Oct. 29 groundbreaking rite for the center at the Elsie Gaches Compound in Muntinlupa.

De Venecia, his wife Gina and her co-members at the CSFI, as well as Muntinlupa Rep. Rossano Raffy Biazon also attended the event.

The center will be the first one specifically for street children whom the organizers refer to as "rejects of society and yet the future of our land."

De Venecia said the project has the blessings of God as he marveled at the way it has "moved so rapidly."

"Normally, the gestation period of a project is from three to five years before it becomes a reality," he said. "And this project was thought of only last month... and now we are holding its groundbreaking rites."

Noting that the center would be built near the St. Jerome parish, he said: "So you see God is moving in His own quiet mysterious way."

His wife Gina, who is CFSI president, said her group plans to raise funds to finance the construction of the center that is expected to be a temporary home for 400 to 500 street children.

Among the CFSI fundraising projects are concerts with the Philharmonic Orchestra and singer Martin Nievera.

"We will also beg our husbands to share a part of their entitlements with us," Ms De Venecia said, referring to the government funds allocated for their congressman-husbands.

In a speech she delivered at the groundbreaking rites, Ms De Venecia urged the audience to help make the project possible to keep children off the streets.

The center is to be designed by architect Gerry Contreras. A cluster of cottages is expected to rise on the land donated to the CFSI by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

"We will make it as homey as possible for the children," said Contreras. Besides the living quarters for the children, the center will also have a school, a playground, a social hall, a livelihood center, a chapel and an administration building, according to him.

Because the land faces the Alabang Town Center, Contreras said he would cover the area with trees and landscapes because these children after all "are tired of the streets."

Soliman said children who would be newly rescued from the streets would be brought to the center.

About 8,000 street children are in Metro Manila. Soliman noted that DSWD projections showed that "there will be more street dwellers" because of the economic crunch.

The center, she said, would serve as a refuge for the street children where "they can heal and recuperate" and regain a "structured life."

"We can prevent them from becoming criminals and even terrorists by showing them hope (for a better life)," she added.

The DSWD operates several centers for children and young adults who are vagrants, victims of abuse, or are in conflict with the law.

Alternative site for QC school needed

BY AGNES E. DONATO

THE QUEZON City government is looking for an alternative site in the city to offer to the Paref-Northfield School for Boys.

Councilor Ariel Inton, who has been pushing for the revocation of the memorandum of agreement between the city government led by then-Mayor Ismael Mathay and Paref-Northfield, said the city was now studying the possibility of giving one of its about 600 open spaces to Paref-Northfield.

Inton said Paref could use this alternative land, instead of the much-debated 3.1-hectare government land in Greenmeadows III subdivision, for the private school it was planning to put up.

"There are more than 600 vacant lots and open spaces in Quezon City," Inton said in a letter to Mayor Feliciano Belmonte. "I am sure Paref-Northfield will be able to identify a site that will have none of the current restrictions and problems" that surround the Greenmea-dows space.

Inton sent the same letter to the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) and other agencies.

The school has been the subject of protests from residents of Greenmeadows and surrounding villages, who have raised issues such as the legality of the plan and other factors like increased air and noise pollution that they said the school would cause.

The Greenmeadows homeowners are set to file graft charges on Monday against Mathay, former councilor Bu Mathay and his wife Pinky who is a Paref trustee, Paref officials Felix Mabanta and Pierangelo Alejo, and the councilors during the Mathay administration who were not reelected.

'Minor' revamp at WPD

THE COMMANDER of the Western Police District has announced a minor revamp in the city police following the recent relief of one of its 11 station commanders.

Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr. appointed Supt. Efren Perez as new commander of WPD Station 10 in Pandacan. Perez headed the WPD-Civil Disturbance Management Group.

Perez replaces Supt. Jose Victor Bantigue, who was ordered sacked by Mayor Lito Atienza early this week after being accused of corruption and mismanagement by Station 10 policemen and Pandacan barangay chiefs.

Supt. Manolo Martinez, head of the WPD Citizen Patrol, was appointed new commander of the WPD Station 5 in Ermita. *Jerome Aning*

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Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
LIFE IS AN ADVENTURE. DON'T BLOW IT.
Bubble Boy
IMAGINE LIVING YOUR LIFE INSIDE A PLASTIC BUBBLE...
Meet Jimmy Livingston (Jake Gyllenhaal), a 17-year-old kid who has all the normal experiences of a boy growing up, except he lives in a plastic bubble.
Then he falls in love, but the girl he wants will marry another---if he does not stop the wedding in time. So, Jimmy builds a bubble suit.
The movie is an outrageously funny road trip across the U.S., where Jimmy meets bikers, rock stars, freaks and a cult, racing against time and his parents, who are determined to bring him back to the safety of his "bubble room."
A hilarious coming-of-age comedy for anyone who has ever been in love.
LOOK OUT, WORLD, HERE COMES BUBBLE BOY!
OPENS IN CINEMAS ON NOV. 14

MTRCB RATING PG-13
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All-new 'MATRIX'-style sci-fi actioner
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What if you discovered the most dangerous man in the universe was you?
Jet Li the hero and Jet Li the villain square off in Columbia Pictures' new stunt & special efx-packed sci-fi action thriller, "The One."
The hero is Gabe, a sheriff deputy. He must thwart his predator Yulaw, an evil agent in a parallel universe who gains super power and strength with every alternate self he destroys. Gabe is his ultimate prey.
"The One" features spectacular fight scenes choreographed by the best Hong Kong martial artists, and astounding special effects in the tradition of "The Matrix" and "Terminator 2." Action fans will applaud the non-stop thrill ride of Jet Li's latest mega-blockbuster.
Bakbakan na! OPENS NOV 7!
THE ONE
REVOLUTION STUDIOS
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ARTFILM GLORIETTA 4
AYALA CINEMAS
NEXT ATTRACTION
MTRCB RATING PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
"Beautiful And Powerful!" "Two Thumbs Up!"
BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE
PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
The Best Film About The Impact of The Spanish War @ ARTFILM - Glorietta 4
In the tradition of "Cinema Paradiso," BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE explores the extraordinary relationship between a shy young boy, Moncho, and his incredibly compassionate teacher, Don Gregorio, who teaches Moncho to find his way in a world that is increasingly frightening. When the Spanish Civil war breaks out on July 18, 1936, everything for the boy and his hero will unexpectedly change.
BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE stars the Spanish legend FERNANDO FERNAN GOMEZ who has a career that spans five decades as an actor, novelist, poet, and director. In 1998, he won the Goya (Spanish Oscar) for Best Lead Actor for his latest film "The Grandfather." The film also stars MANUEL LOZANO, UXIA BLANCO, GONZALO MARTIN URIARTE, ALEXIS de los SANTOS and GUILLERMO TOLEDO. The film won Best Film at the Cleveland International Film Festival & Best Screenplay at the Goya Awards.
Directed by JOSÉ LUIS CUERDA and written by RAFAEL AZCONA, BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE is based upon the MANUEL RIVAS novel Que Me Quieres, Amor?.
Language: Spanish with English subtitles

MTRCB RATING R Restricted
Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
'Ghosts of Mars,' special effects-packed action-suspense thriller from John Carpenter
Mars, 2176 AD. Long inhabited by human settlers, the Red Planet has become the dangerous destiny of an over-populated Earth. 640,000 people now live and work at far-flung outposts all over Mars, mining the planet for its abundant natural resources.
But one of those mining operations has uncovered a deadly mother lode: a long-dormant Martian civilization whose terrifying warriors, now unleashed and unstoppable, are systematically taking over the bodies of human intruders, bent on ridding the planet of the invaders from Earth.
Master of Terror John Carpenter ("Escape from L.A.," "Halloween," "Vampires") presents a new, special effects-packed action-adventure sci-fi thriller starring the sexy Natasha Henstridge ("Species") as Lt. Melanie Ballard of the Mars Police Force. "Ghosts of Mars" is a Columbia Pictures release
GHOSTS OF MARS
NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING PG-13
Parents Strongly Cautioned in bringing children of tender age due to some violent scenes.
THE NO. 1 SUSPENSE THRILLER IN AMERICA!
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...I'll never tell.
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LEGALLY BLONDE - P 13 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10
GHOST OF MARS - R 18 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
TRAINING DAY - R 18 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
DON'T SAY A WORD - P 13 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:40
Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri., 11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

SECOND WEEK!
MTRCB RATING R-18 Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
DENZEL WASHINGTON
ETHAN HAWKE
TRAINING DAY
THE ONLY THING MORE DANGEROUS THAN THE LINE BEING CROSSED IS THE COP WHO WILL CROSS IT.

SECOND WEEK!
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
REESE WITHERSPOON
LEGALLY blonde
This year go blonde!
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Win one of the 5 SMART Buddy Nokia 3310 phone kits & other big prizes in the "DEXTER GOES GLOBAL" Contest. Just tune in to Cartoon Network, everyday at 5:00 p.m.

You could win a SMART Buddy Nokia 3310 phone kit just by watching Dexter's Laboratory! It's the Dexter Goes Global Contest from SMART and Cartoon Network. It's so easy to join! Just watch Dexter's Laboratory on Cartoon Network, then anytime during the promotional period, use your SMART cellfone to text us what your favorite episode is. If you're lucky, you could win a Nokia 3310, a Bankee toy showcase, or Dexter's Laboratory goodie bags. So join Dexter Goes Global Contest now. This experiment could have great results for you!

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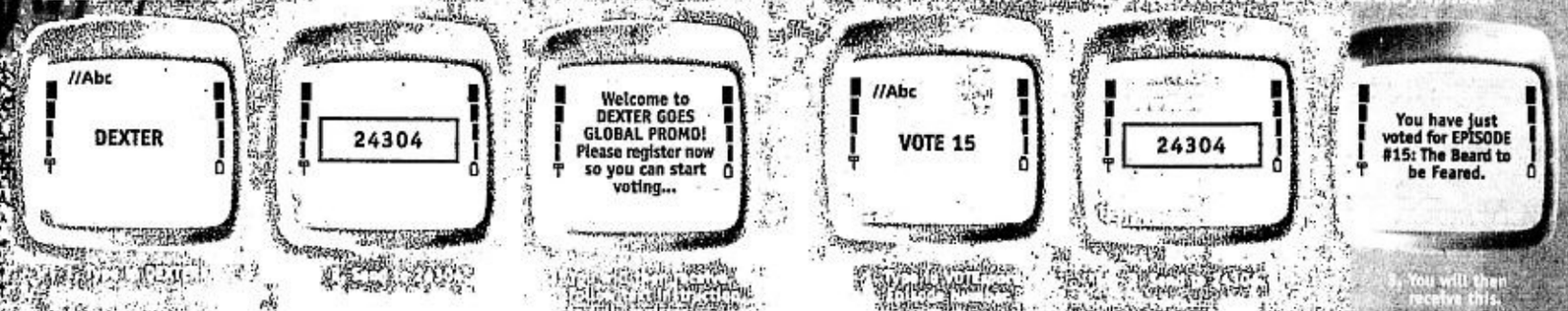

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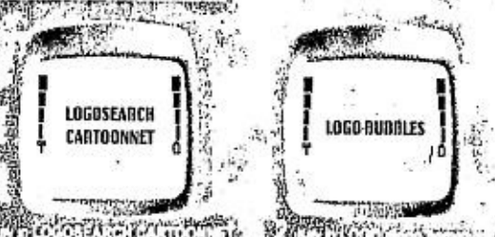

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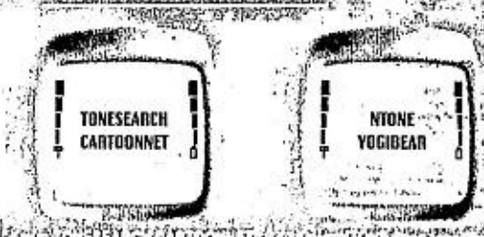

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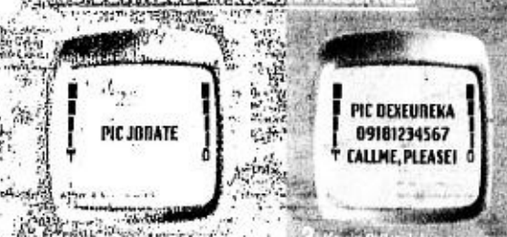

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

1. 1 vote = 1 virtual raffle point. SMART subscribers can vote for as many episodes as s/he wants, anytime of the day within the promotional period.
2. Promotion runs from October 21-November 11, 2001.
3. All successful entries will be charged ₱2.50 per message sent.
4. Prizes are as follows:
   a. 5 winners of a SMART Buddy Nokia 3310 phone kit. (Exclusive to SMART Text Promo contestants only)
5. Other prizes (For Dexter Goes Global Text Promotion, E-mail and Mail contestants)
   a. 1 winner of "Rock Em Sock Em" toy showcase from Bankee worth ₱6,297.75
   b. 10 winners of Cartoon Network Dexter's Laboratory goodie bags to include a crayon set, envelope, postcard and poster.
6. Grand draw will be on November 19, 2001.

* Logos, Picture Messages and Ring Tones are supported by selected Nokia handsets. SMART Cartoon Network rates: ₱2.50 per inquiry • ₱12.00 per download.

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2001

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

Gov't eyes ₱20B in new borrowings

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE BUREAU of Treasury said it could issue as much as P20 billion worth of low-yield but dollar-linked peso instruments this year if it would be assured that there was enough appetite in the market for the new debt notes.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza, said the first issue worth P5 billion of two- and three-year dollar-linked notes had been set for Nov.19 and 20. If there is substantial demand, the government may issue more in the succeeding weeks.

Also called the dollar hedge, the latest instrument in an increasing line-up of novelty debt notes being sold by the government offers dollar-linked interest rates at current levels that would be paid out based on the peso-dollar exchange rate at the time of maturity.

To be handled by Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., Multinational Investment Bancorporation, and Deutsche Bank, the new borrowing instrument also raises cheap funds for the government since it follows dollar interest rates, which are much lower than local cost of borrowed funds.

It also helps stabilize the foreign exchange market, Edeza pointed out, since it should attract companies and big players which want to hedge their risks against the peso away from speculating in the spot market.

Traders said the offering of the dollar hedge notes was just right since the peso had been showing signs of weakness lately and the peso borrowing that pays out dollar rate upon maturity should help lure the so-called "rational speculators" away from the daily foreign exchange trading.

In fact, the dollar-linked instrument was one of the several peso-propping measures that Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho had volunteered to the central bank.

"For this year, we could issue as much as P20 billion but we will have to spread this over a two-week period because we do not want to saturate the market," Edeza said.

For instance, on Nov. 19 and 20, the government would try to cap the subscriptions at no more than P5 billion. "If we issue more than P5 billion in a single day, it may be difficult for a thin market," the treasurer explained.

Edeza pointed out that the government was also open to limiting the issue of the dollar-linked notes to P10 billion or even less. He said a lot depends on the reception by the market.

The yields of the new debt notes, according to a trader, should be comparable to the rates of the dollar-denominated Republic of the Philippine debt papers and should be much lower than the six-month treasury bill rate.

The central bank said the new borrowing would discourage people from buying dollars from the spot market and instead lure them to invest their money in dollar-denominated papers.

"This new instrument behaves like a dollar investment so there would be no need to buy dollars at the spot market," a Bangko Sentral

GOV'T/ B4

German firm to invest P285M in RP project

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

A SPIN-OFF firm of German chipmaker Temic Telefunken Microelectronic (Philippines) will pump in P285 million to expand its information technology (IT) services in the country.

Temic's IT spin-off, debis IT Services Philippines (dISP), is gearing up to be one of the country's premiere application service provider (ASP), a company which provides individuals or enterprises cheaper access to computer applications and related services through the Internet.

ASPs are ideal not only for small companies with low budgets for IT but also for larger companies that want to save on the investments in computers. dISP estimated that its prospective clients could save up to P5.608 million by foregoing their purchases of computer hardware.

At full implementation, dISP is expected to provide services for customer relationship management, supply chain management, e-commerce and e-procurement, business information warehouse, sales and distribution, and industry specific solutions.

The project is eligible for pioneer incentives because it easily surpassed the P100-million minimum project cost mandated under the law.

SEC drafts rules on laundering

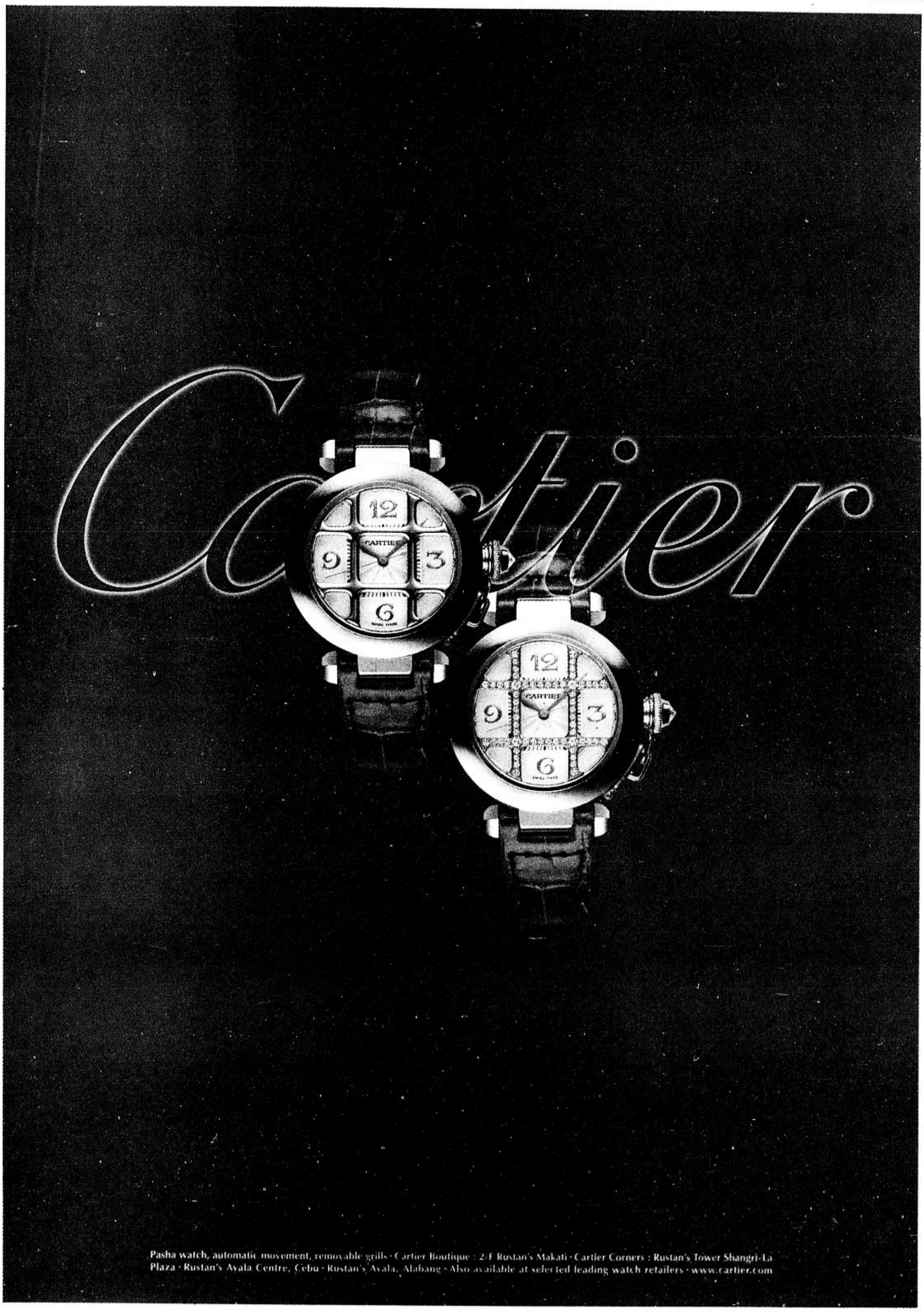
BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has drafted anti-money-laundering rules and regulations covering brokers, investment houses, mutual fund companies, pre-need companies and other similar entities.

The SEC will present on Monday the draft rules for approval of the Capital Market Development Council, a public-private sector group that works to improve the country's debt and equity markets. The SEC, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Insurance Commission have until mid-November to come up with the IRR of the Anti-Money Laundering Act signed into law last Sept. 30.

The new law makes money laundering a crime and provides for the creation of a three-member group composed of the heads of the BSP, SEC and IC to oversee compliance with reportorial requirements and investigations into possible money laundering cases.

Under its proposed rules, the SEC seeks to combat money laundering by requiring "registered intermediaries" or companies regulated by the Commission, to apply the "know your customer" principle and to report suspicious transactions.



₱250-M INVESTMENT

iVantage eyes call center unit

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

INFORMATION technology holding firm iVantage Corp. is set to invest about P250 million ($5 million) in a new call center venture in order to take advantage of the fast-growing opportunities from foreign companies outsourcing such services.

In an interview, iVantage president David De Leon said the company was now finalizing a partnership with a foreign group to establish a call center business in the Philippines. He said a definitive agreement would likely be signed within this month.

De Leon said the new call center unit could be folded into iVantage's portal subsidiary, Yehey.com, so as to give the bleeding dotcom unit the chance to be "integrated into the brick and mortar" world.

He explained that iVantage needed to bring a foreign partner to provide expertise and foreign clientele network and thus jumpstart the venture. However, he said ownership control would likely be 60-40 percent in favor of iVantage.

A call center is a central place where customer and other telephone calls are handled by an organization, with some amount of computer automation. Typically, a call center has the ability to handle a considerable volume of calls at the same time, to screen calls and forward them to someone qualified to handle them, and to log calls.

Call centers are used by mail-order catalog organizations, telemarketing companies, computer product help desks and any large organization that uses the telephone to sell or service products and services.

De Leon explained that it would cost about $10,000 to put up a call center seat. To put up a minimum of 50 seats, iVantage would thus need to spend around $5 million.

A seat consists of a station with two to three people alternating in several shifts to provide 24-hour call center service.

De Leon said the upside for the call center business was huge now that the cost of doing business in industrialized countries, particularly the United States, was fast rising. To save costs, foreign companies are outsourcing such services from countries with skilled manpower like the Philippines.

"There are about 1,500 seats devoted to call centers in the Philippines. In the US, there are about 10 million seats. Even if only 10 percent of the total seats in the US were outsourced, it gives plenty of business to the Philippines," De Leon said.

iVantage transformed itself into an IT holding company last year when it bought into a consortium of IT companies controlled by the group of IT pioneer William Chua. The consortium is comprised of software developer Jupiter Systems Inc. (40 percent), Yehey.com (20 percent), computer distributor Wordtext Systems Inc. (30 percent), systems integrator Nexus Technologies Inc. (20 percent), Internet consulting firm WS Fiesta Online and medical transcription software developer IPD Systems Inc. (20 percent).

Firm eases backlog of passport renewals

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

LOCAL call center Pilipinas Teleserv Inc. has slashed by half the number of passport renewals at the Department of Foreign Affairs by providing applicants an alternative transaction channel.

Teleserv has provided the DFA a backbone for over-the-phone passport renewals through DFA Passport Direct, a 24-hour toll-free hotline that is both efficient and easy to use.

"Our technology has significantly reduced the volume of transactions handled by the DFA and allowed them to focus on other aspects of their service," Teleserv director for operations Jun Yupitun said.

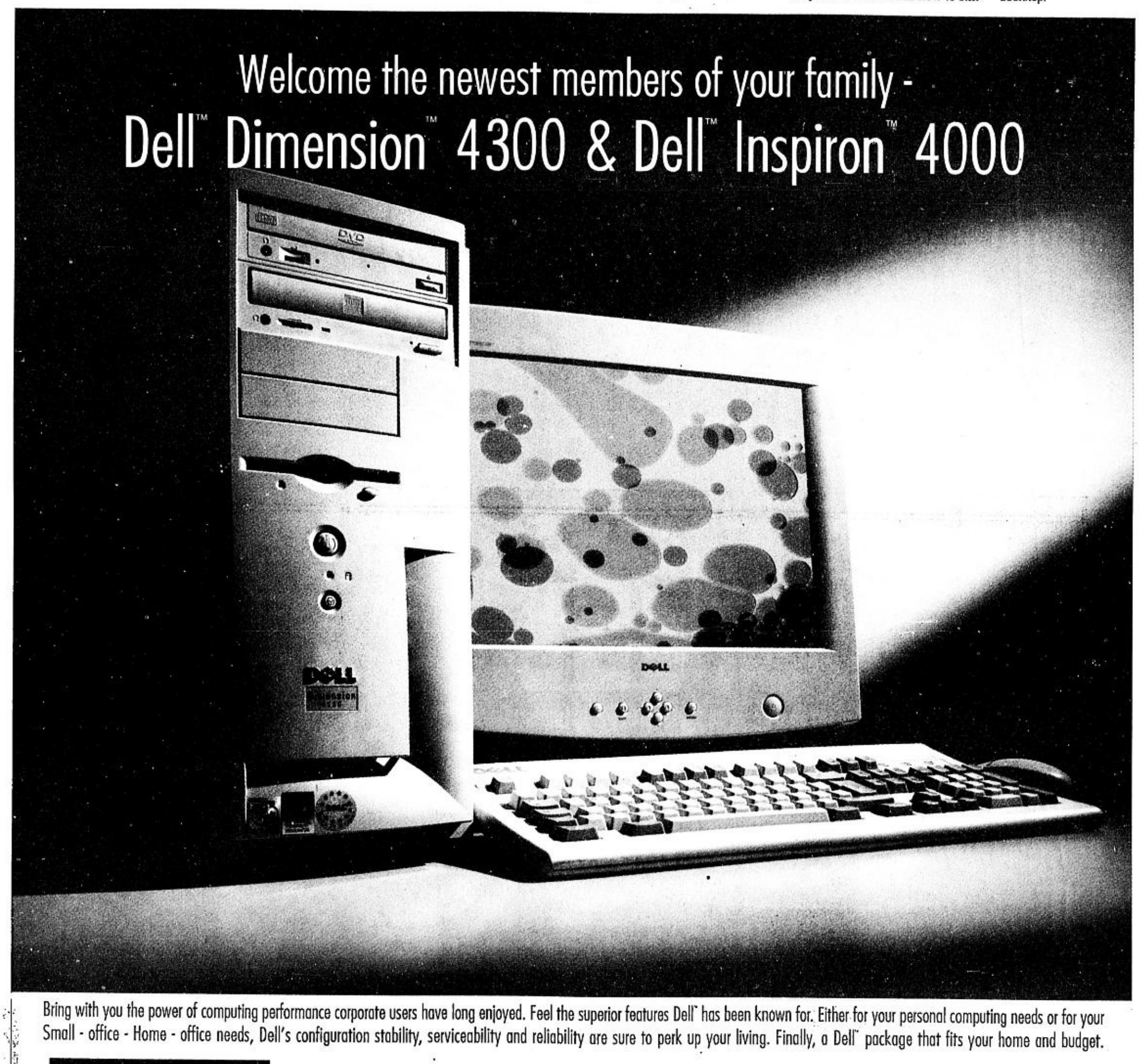
The DFA Passport Direct service is the first of its kind in the world. Yupitun said one of the challenges they had to hurdle was how to simplify the entire over-the-phone passport renewal process for the public.

"If we were to position our service as the most convenient alternative, we have to ensure that our technology can help us deliver on our promise," he said.

Those who wish to renew their passports without going through the hassle of going to the DFA need only dial the toll-free hotline number 737-1000. A courier would then pick up the passport renewal form and the supporting documents.

Yupitun stressed that the entire process was very secure as documents and payments made to the courier were insured against loss. These would also be promptly replaced should the documents actually get lost.

Applicants also need not go to the DFA to pick up the renewed passport. After a week, a courier would bring the new passport right to the applicant's doorstep.



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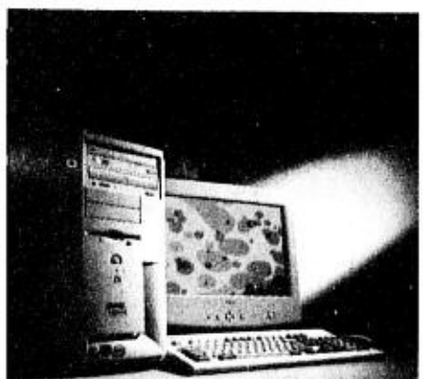

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Salcon Power plans IPO

SALCON Power Corp., a local unit of the Salcon energy group of Singapore, is planning to go into an initial public offering involving 313.9 million shares to raise approximately P250 million.

The amount will be used to partly finance a project to install diesel-fired power plants in eight islands in the country.

In documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, SPC said it would offer 156.95 million primary shares and 156.96 million secondary shares with a par value of P1.00. The offer price will range from P1.70 to P2.20 per share.

The shares to be offered represent about 20 percent of SPC's issued and outstanding capital stock of 1.569 billion shares. The IPO will be underwritten by ATR-Kim Eng Capital Partners Inc.

SPC was formed after the consortium led by Salcon Philippines Inc. was awarded the contract to rehabilitate, operate, maintain and manage the 203.8-megawatt Naga Power Plant Complex. The consortium also bagged contracts involving other power projects in the Visayas region.

The company said it would use the proceeds from the sale of the primary shares to partially finance the company's equity requirements for the Eight Islands Diesel project, a P1.4-billion project to install diesel engine-driven power plants in eight of the country's islands.

SPC said it intended to finance 30 percent of the project cost worth P417 million with equity to be infused by Salcon Island Power Corp. The bulk of 70 percent will be financed with borrowings.

The company is currently negotiating with a German financial institution for a dollar-denominated project loan to finance 70 percent of the project. The indicative terms for the project loan include a six-year repayment period, with the interest rate pegged at the London Interbank Borrowing Rate plus 1.2 percent.

Banks seek tax break for swap transactions

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE BANKERS Association of the Philippines, the umbrella organization of the country's more than 40 commercial banks, has asked the Bureau of Internal Revenue to exempt from taxes swap transactions which were designed to increase the banks' access to liquidity.

In an interview, BAP executive director Leonilo Coronel said that in previous discussions with BIR officials, the agency seemed amenable to the BAP's request.

Coronel said the BAP was hoping to sign soon a memorandum of agreement with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Bureau of Treasury that would provide a more structured system for "cash-settled securities swap transactions" among financial institutions, and between financial institutions and the BSP.

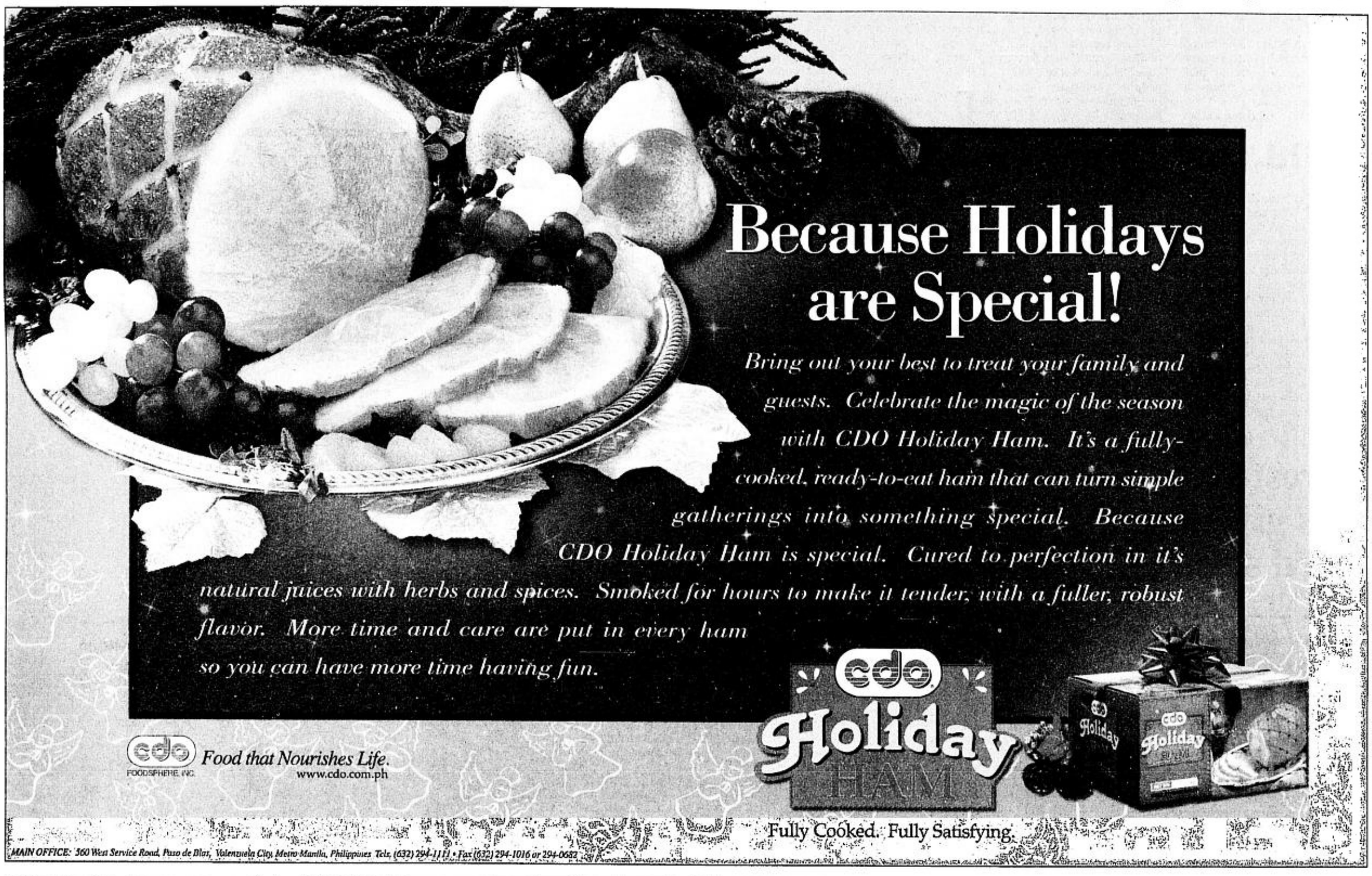
Similar to a buy-back arrangement, cash-settled securities swap deals are agreements between financial institutions to simultaneously buy and sell government securities at a predetermined future date and price.

But unlike buy-back or reverse purchase transactions, Coronel said the cash-settled securities swaps were really outright sale or purchase. They involve equivalent but different securities.

The BAP noted that there were "several swap transactions, both spot and forward, among BAP member banks and financial institutions that are not uniformly structured and settled and, therefore, could be subject to various risks for the transacting parties."

The agreement between the BAP and the BSP along with the Bureau of Treasury is expected to provide liquidity to long term securities. It can also be used as an open market mechanism by the BSP to manage yield curves of government securities.

Under the proposed MOA, the BAP wants the BTR to facilitate the transfer of Treasury Bills and Fixed Rate Term Notes from the seller to the buyer (under buy-back arrangements) through the government agency's registry of scripless securities—the online, electronic central securities clearinghouse for all government securities.



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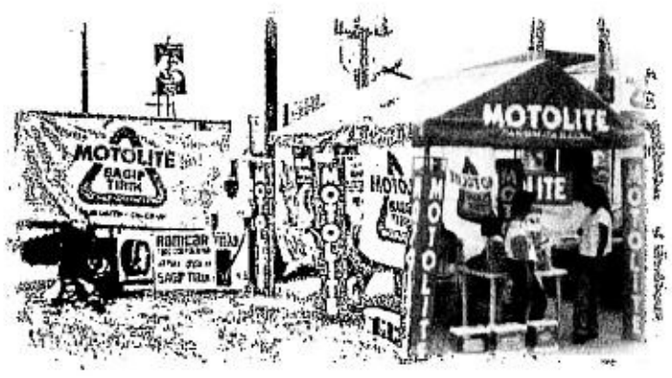

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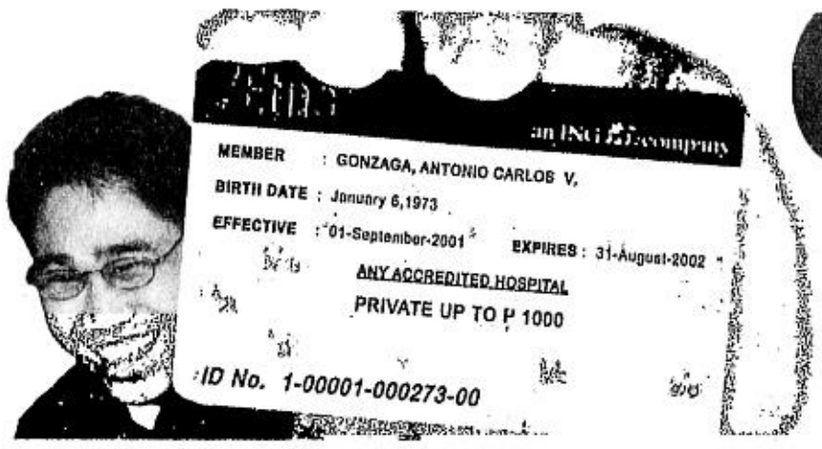

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China and Southeast Asia eye world's largest free-trade area

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei—Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji and leaders of Southeast Asia's 10 nations are expected to agree on an ambitious plan to create the world's largest free-trade zone, officials said Friday.

The decision to give the go-ahead for the Asean-China free trade area at a summit meeting here in Brunei next week "is going to be extremely significant," a Southeast Asian foreign ministry official told AFP.

"If this is realized, maybe in about 10 years, it will be the largest FTA in the world with a combined market of nearly 2 billion people," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations will have their annual meeting in Brunei's capital on Monday before meeting their counterparts from China, Japan and South Korea the next day.

Most of Asean, comprising Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, will already be part of a free market by 2003 under the grouping's own liberalization plan.

At the last Asean-China summit meeting held in Singapore in 2000, Premier Zhu raised the likelihood of an Asean-China free trade zone as a means to strengthen trade and investment links.

Following the proposal, Asean and China, the world's most populous nation, set up an expert group to study the broader aspect of their economic relations into the 21st century, officials said.

The expert group compiled a report that was reviewed by senior officials of the two sides ahead of the summit.

They recommended the setting up of the Asean-China free trade area, covering a market of about 1.7 billion people—comprising China's 1.2 billion population and the 500 million inhabitants of Asean's 10 member-states, the officials said.

As of 2000, Asean and China have a combined gross domestic product of almost $1.7 trillion and a total external trade value of nearly $1.3 trillion.

"What is needed is for the leaders to agree," the foreign ministry official said. "Once they agree, Asean and China will have to look at the scope and modalities of the FTA and other measures to expedite, to realize this as soon as possible," he said.

The assistant director of external relations at the Jakarta-based Asean secretariat, S. Pushpanathan, said the proposed free trade plan reflected the importance China gave to its economic links with Asean.

"Asean is the first entity that China wants to have an FTA with and this augurs well for their economic relations, especially with China's entry into the World Trade Organization," he told AFP.

Pushpanathan said should the plan go through, it would "inject confidence in East Asia during this current global economic slowdown, help to boost trade and investments and improve Asean's economic competitiveness."

Even though Southeast Asia is nearing its goal of achieving a free trade area, it is losing its luster as an investment destination largely to China, Asean officials said.

According to the US-Asean Business Council, foreign direct investment to China in 1999 totaled $40 billion, or 42 percent of the total capital flowing into Asia.

By contrast, foreign direct investment to Asean was $16 billion, or just 17 percent of the total.

This is the lowest level of investment in Asean since the early 1990s and the smallest as a percentage of total Asian investment inflows since the 1980s. *AFP*

China, Taiwan give impetus to WTO round

WELLINGTON, New Zealand—The accession of China and Taiwan to membership of the World Trade Organization fuels hopes for the launch of a new round of international trade negotiations in Doha this month, Trade Minister Jim Sutton said Friday.

"China is an acknowledged leader of many developing countries and is a strong supporter of the launch, so that will make a difference," Sutton said.

Together with the accession of Taiwan, it was giving a "big boost" to hopes of success at the summit in Qatar, he said.

The last attempt to launch a fresh round of multilateral trade talks failed in Seattle two years ago.

Sutton said he was "more than 70 percent convinced" a fresh round of trade talks would be launched when 142 trade ministers from across the globe meet in Qatar from Nov. 9 to 13.

"I am more optimistic about the chances (of a new round of trade talks) now than I was previously," he told journalists.

Any new round must include significant movement in the rules governing trade in agriculture, forest products and fish, all of which are "hugely important to New Zealand," and "it's certain these issues will be seriously addressed," he said.

Agreement over fish would lead to the lifting of export subsidies by some nations, lower consumer prices, a reduction in overfishing and greater security of fish supplies in the future.

In agriculture, New Zealand was seeking the "phasing out" of export subsidies, reductions in tariffs and substantial expansions of quotas.

In a separate written statement, Sutton said New Zealand was seeking "the elimination of all forms of export subsidies," a phrase observers see as holding to the line agreed by the Cairns Group of free-trade agricultural producers and exporters that farm produce subsidies must be removed. It also what many are hoping the fresh WTO round will bring to fruition.

New Zealand principal trade negotiator Adrian Macey said after last-minute bargaining in Geneva, the way is now clear for a clean text of proposals for discussion in the new round to be submitted to ministers next week.

This is a major advance on Seattle, where the negotiating agenda was cluttered with the wish lists of nations, helping the talks to founder.

Macey said a total of five texts would be put before the trade ministers, three dealing with implementation issues, one on trade-related intellectual property rights and health issues, and the fifth the main declaration trade text.

He said the position of the major countries on the implementation issues was a "good sign" that agreement is likely on those issues. *AP*

Interest-free loans give Big 3 record sales

DETROIT, Michigan—The Big Three US automakers were favorably surprised with the highest October sales in their industry's history as shoppers who shunned showrooms after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks bit on interest-free loans and other promotions.

Industry-leader General Motors Corp. said Thursday that its October sales soared 31.2 percent over October 2000, No. 2 Ford Motor Co. reported a 34.4-percent jump, and the Chrysler Group reported a 5-percent increase.

In the days after the attacks that brought down New York City's World Trade Center and punched a hole in the Pentagon outside Washington, dealers paced empty display floors as wary customers stayed away.

After federal commerce officials met top auto executives to brainstorm about ways to kick-start the economy after Sept. 11, both GM and Ford rolled out patriotically named buyer-incentive programs on Sept. 20. *AFP*

Matsushita warns of takeover unless performance improves

TOKYO—Japan's Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Ltd. has warned it will be vulnerable to a takeover if it is unable to boost its performance and its share price continues to languish.

"Matsushita's stock, according to (managing director in charge of international business Yukio) Shohtoku, is undervalued," said Matsushita spokesperson Yasuhiro Fukagawa Friday.

"If this continues, it is likely that some other parties would form some consortium and we would not be very difficult to take over," Fukagawa said.

He quoted Shohtoku as telling journalists Thursday that such a takeover would be a possibility rather than a probability and said the executive was "half joking and half serious."

Shohtoku said should the company fail to achieve its targeted turnaround in the next fiscal year to March 2003, its credit ratings would fall and market capitalization continue to decline, making Matsushita an easy takeover target.

"I have never felt this kind of situation in the past. The threat is not a theory. If you could put together a lot of money, you could be my owner," the Asian Wall Street Journal quoted Shohtoku as saying.

Matsushita, known for its Panasonic and National brands, is forecasting a net loss of 265 billion yen ($2.17 billion) for the year to March, but is aiming for recovery the following year after implementing a restructuring plan involving job cuts and plant closures.

Matsushita closed on Thursday at 1,465 yen, giving the company a market capitalization of just over 3 trillion yen, below the 3.57 trillion yen in net assets on its balance sheet.

Matsushita Electric ended the morning session on the Tokyo Stock Exchange Friday up 31 yen at 1,496 yen.

Shohtoku estimated Matsushita's market capitalization should be around 6 trillion yen, or around 3,000 yen a share.

He said the threat of a takeover was also increasing as friendly shareholders such as banks cut their stakes in Matsushita, allowing more individuals and foreign investors to buy stakes. *AFP*

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Boeing layoffs to come faster than anticipated

SEATTLE—Boeing Co.'s previously announced plan to cut 30,000 jobs will be mostly completed by the middle of next year, the company said.

Previously, spokesman Tom Ryan said the company would make about 20,000 job cuts by mid-2002, with another approximately 10,000 job cuts to come by the end of next year.

On Thursday, Ryan said almost all of the job cuts would be by mid-year to match a reduction in airplane production rates.

About 12,000 workers have already received layoff notices and are expected to be out of work by Dec. 14.

The company announced the layoffs on Sept. 18, citing a downturn in the aviation industry caused by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The layoffs will account for about 30 percent of the company's approximately 93,000 commercial airplane employees.

Ryan said the company was staying within the layoff guidelines originally set, but union officials said many workers were counting on an extra few months of work.

Bill Dugovitch, a spokesman for Boeing's engineering union, said the pace of layoffs announced Thursday was "one more extreme hardship on Boeing workers" and worried that it would affect morale at the aerospace giant.

"People are discouraged. They're upset," he said.

Boeing's layoffs came after the already struggling aviation industry was sent into a deep financial crisis as a result of the hijacking terrorist attacks.

Many airlines have reported steep losses and laid off thousands of their own employees.

Chicago-based Boeing lowered its estimate for 2002 revenues and said it might deliver as few as 350 airplanes next year and probably fewer in 2003. It also said it was considering shutting down production of the unprofitable 717 airliner.

Boeing also learned last week that it would not receive a government contract to build the Joint Strike Fighter. Lockheed Martin won the contract, which was expected to be worth at least $200 billion. Ryan said losing the JSF contract had nothing to do with the layoff schedule. *AP*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Wednesday, October 31, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41	41.5	40.5	40.5	1,187,200
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	18	18	18	18	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	18	18	18	18	5,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	165	167	164	165	185,260
Philippine National Bank	47	48	47	48	408,200
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	18	18	18	18	1,700
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	40,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	235	242	235	242	170
Manulife Financial Corp.	1245	1260	1245	1260	430
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1055	1065	1045	1065	12,610
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25	25	25	25	3,300
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	630,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	540	540	535	540	8,050
Ipeople Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	500,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.25	45,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	380	387.5	380	380	106,350
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.014	7,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	21	22	21	22	28,200
Manila Electric Co. B	32	33	32	33	595,000
Petron Corp.	1.06	1.08	1.02	1.02	5,067,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.8	0.82	0.8	0.82	60,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.28	1.32	1.28	1.32	1,207,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	4,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	335,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11	11	11	11	67,200
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	24	24	23.25	23.75	45,200
RFM Corp.	2.04	2.06	2.04	2.06	153,000
San Miguel Corp. A	39	40	39	39.5	169,300
San Miguel Corp. B	44.5	45	44.5	45	297,000
Universal Robina Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	50,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.4	4.45	4.4	4.4	4,240,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	140,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	60,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.59	0.6	3,820,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	80,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	22.25	22.25	22	22	842,600
Gueco Holdings (Phils.)	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	10,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.59	0.57	0.59	2,380,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.195	380,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	2,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.21	0.25	0.21	0.25	90,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Prime Gaming Phils. Inc.	20	20	20	20	100
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.8	0.8	0.79	0.79	350,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	40,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	130,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	2,200,000
Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.	12.5	12.5	12	12	7,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	130,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25.5	26	25.5	26	286,400
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	11	11	11	11	400
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	525	525	520	520	480
Jollibee Warrants	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	4,100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	20,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.6	8.6	8	8.3	28,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.35	4.5	4.35	4.4	10,723,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.195	2,430,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.08	1.1	6,318,000
City & Land Developers	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	400,000
SM Development Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.6	1,134,000
Mining					
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	500,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,500,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	2,000,000
South China Resources Inc	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	60,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,843,070	112,229,650.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	52,083,080	152,473,910.00
PRO	21,105,000	61,690,330.00
Mining	2,000,000	99,000.00
OIL	3,060,000	49,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	80,091,150	326,541,890.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	387.56	UP 1.28
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,409.45	DOWN 6.84
PRO	439.27	UP 2.36
Mining	998.12	UNCH 0.00
OIL	1.28	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	643.01	UP 1.61
Composite	993.35	DOWN 1.79

NO. OF ADVANCES: 22; NO. OF DECLINES: 14; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 36;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 72; NO. OF TRADES: 1,380

Currencies

Oct. 31, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.105217	1.000000	51.9350
Japan	Yen	0.009062	0.008199	0.4258
United Kingdom	Pound	1.604001	1.451300	75.3733
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.141877	0.128370	6.6669
Switzerland	Franc	0.680385	0.615612	31.9718
Canada	Dollar	0.700391	0.633714	32.9119
Singapore	Dollar	0.606063	0.548366	28.4794
Australia	Dollar	0.560454	0.507099	26.3382
Bahrain	Dinar	2.931765	2.652661	137.7659
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.295513	0.267380	13.8864
Brunei	Dollar	0.602955	0.545554	28.3333
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000107	0.000097	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.024769	0.022411	1.1639
UAE	Dirham	0.300985	0.272331	14.1435
Korea	Won	0.000858	0.000776	0.0403
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.904800	46.9908
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.462617	24.0260
France	Franc	0.152450	0.137936	7.1637
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.410580	21.3235
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.065754	3.4149
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022429	1.1649
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000467	0.0243
Finland	Markka	0.168187	0.152176	7.9033
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004513	0.2344
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005438	0.2824
Luxembourg	Franc	0.024789	0.022429	1.1649
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.148859	59.6660

Gov't eyes P20B . . .

(From page B1)

official said.

For instance, a bank or an investor that would buy P100 million worth of these papers would earn a yield based on the prevailing rate of two- and three-year Philippine debt papers.

But the principal amount would be paid on the prevailing exchange rate at the time of maturity. If the peso falls after two to three years to a level lower than the time the investment was made, then the investor gets an additional return.

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	NAME OF BENEFICIARY	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBERS	DATE OF DEMISE
1)	Shirley Biasaga Gloria Biasaga	Unknown Brgy. Anolid, Mangaldan, Pangasinan	Carlos A. Biasaga SS No. 03-2769865-8	June 21, 2001
2)	Luce Borlaza	West Dirita, San Antonio Zambales	Federico G. Borlaza SS No. 02-0175729-1	March 13, 2001
3)	Tarhata Marawe	Unknown	Reynaldo Cells SS No. 03-2097545-9	November 14, 2000
4)	Ruel Espiritu	35-H Howmart Rd. Quezon City	Elizabeth R. Espiritu SS No. 03-3840623-7	May 4, 2001
5)	Condrada Gubalani	1398-A Tondo, Manila	Ramon Fernando SS No. 03-0801440-0	June 12, 2001
6)	Nancy B. Logronio	Lojos Cmpd., Naga Rd. Putanglupa, Las Piñas City	Nelson M.Geraldino SS No. 03-2596226-3	January 13, 2000
7)	Carmilina Glomar	710 Constancia Sampaloc, Manila	Jesus Glomar SS No. 03-1161797-5	August 25, 2001
8)	Sofia	Unknown	Federico Luces Sr. SS No. 07-0399471-4	August 11, 2000
9)	Rosita Calnoy	Negros	Macario F. Amerila SS No. 07-1312211-0	May 6, 2000
10)	Lilia Rebojo Narcisa Luna	Unknown	Rodolfo T. Mangali SS No. 03-3396079-4	May 31, 2001
11)	Victor R. Montemayor	Unknown	Allan D. Montemayor SS No. 33-4305598-4	December 28, 2000
12)	Myrla Rivero, Carol Rivero & Jenifer Rivero	Banquerohan, Legazpi City	Victoriano A. Rivero SS No. 05-0239185-1	August 31, 2001
13)	Julieta Colibao, Carleta and Carmelita Tagarao	Bo. Balud, Barugo, Leyte or Brgy. Balud, Barugo, Leyte	Ricardo C. Tagarao SS No. 03-3888997-7	August 16, 1999
14)	Ruben Velarde	Unknown	Eleanor D. Velarde SS No. 02-0452666-5	March 27, 1994
15)	Erlinda Manabat Garcia Lindoln Noah Garcia	23 Bo. Dolores Taytay, Rizal	Nicanor M. Balangan SS No. 03-8299417-7	September 7, 1999
16)	Virginia, Arnold, Rizalia & John	4514 Int. 16 Valenzuela St. Sta. Mesa, Manila	Pepito M. Zulueta SS No. 03-2095495-9	October 18, 2000
17)	Yolanda Roperos	Unknown	Francisco Achay SS No. 03-2396050-0	August 6, 2001
18)	Juanita Arbas	Unknown	Edilberto Bayani SS No. 03-2505999-8	September 14, 2001
19)	Violeta Baltazar	Unknown	Armando M. Baltazar SS No. 03-1887321-7	February 6, 2001
20)	Aurelia/Aurilia Hurry	1218 Bo. San Jose, Paco, Manila	Miguel Duque SS No. 03-0376388-2	September 6, 2001
21)	Vinencia	Unknown	Pio Gaudier Jr. SS No. 03-1132197-3	September 17, 2001
22)	Lourdes Hosena	Unknown	Manuel B. Hosena SS No. 03-3877442-2	December 5, 2000
23)	Lourdes Recto	Unknown	Dominador Javier SS No. 04-0088864-4	March 27, 2001
24)	Cyril Reyes	Unknown	Alex B. Reyes SS No. 04-0346877-3	October 1, 2000
25)	Nila Samaco	Unknown	Conrado Samaco SS No. 03-4893248-7	January 31, 2001
26)	Pantaleona Somosot	Unknown	Edgar C. Somosot SS No. 06-0364103-1	March 23, 2001
27)	Erlinda Frias	Unknown	Rolando B. Villarosa SS No. 07-0303968-2	July 20, 2001

(PDI - Oct. 3, 2001)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

DALMATIAN PUPPIES 4Sale
w/PCCI Call 0917-5395146

Dalmatian Pups M 3.5T F
4T 7216903 ; 09174047744

Dog Trainer 09192050952

Golden Retriever Pups
Male/Female 20/24 Thou
Call/Txt • JETDOG KENNEL
0917-5348096

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3 Male Puppies 20 Thou
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TRAINER 4528681/0919-7219020

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

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Midwife or Caregiver
Call Tel. 373-3606

WTD:Yaya/ Hse Maids / Family Cook 6604589

MALE/FEMALE

AdminStaf 9134470MSAJ

LAWYER W/HONGKONG LICENSE T-372-2221

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

Sundry Wholesale
Age 24-55
Full-time: 9,000/Part-time: 4,000
1. Clerk 2. Marketing Asst.
3. Sales 4. Tele-Coordinator
w/good communication skills
Full-time: 9:00-5:00 p.m.
Part-time: 9:00-12:30/ 2:00-5:30/6:30-8:30 p.m.
Interview time: 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Call: 892-3202; 892-3031 & 892-3603
Address: Unit 2411 Herrera Tower, Herrera St., Salcedo Village, Makati

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Bo. Kapitolyo 125m² Office or Shop Call 634-1212

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MANUEL DE LARA VILLAMAYOR has been extra-judicially settled by his heirs on May 31, 2001 under Doc# 70, Page# 15, Book# 12, Series of 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Wilfredo T. Albarico of Rizal -PDI 11-3,10,17,2001

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City, 1100 Philippines • Telephone 925-24-01

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites sealed written bids for:

I. One (1) year contract (Jan.-Dec. 2002) for the following:
a. Laundry Services (linens)
b. Supply of Medical Oxygen (tanks only)
c. Aircon Maintenance

Only duly accredited bidders/suppliers will be allowed to participate in the bidding. List of requirements to be submitted:

1. Letter of Intent
2. SEC registration
3. Bus. License
4. List of clients
5. Financial Statement (last 2 yrs.)
6. ITR (last 2 yrs.)
7. Location Map of Office

All interested bidders/suppliers must submit their accreditation documents on or before **Nov. 12, 2001** at Purchasing Division.

The PHC reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder/s if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information and the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

(Sgd.) **ROMEO J. SANTOS, M.D.**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI – Oct. 26, 27, 28, Nov. 2, 3 & 4, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of **MA. CLARA VIRGINIA R. BONDAD** who died on December 11, 1997 was extrajudicially settled from among their heirs as Doc. No. 24; Page No. 7; Book No. VII; Series of 2001 before Notary Public Ma. Angelica C. Dychiao of Paranaque City.
(PDI-Oct.20,27,Nov.3,2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **SO CHING YONG UY** has been extra-judicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. No. 203; Page No. 41; Book No. III; Series of 2001 of Notary Public H.B. Basco of Manila
(PDI-Oct.20,27&Nov.3,2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit, Thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your perpetual glory. Amen
Person must pray this 3 consecutive Days without stating one's wish. After 3rd day your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this as soon as your favor has been granted. MTO

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Inquirer Classified ads branches are open to serve your advertising needs on:

November 3

Main Office - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Kalaw - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Megamall - 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Cubao - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cagayan
Municipality of Solana
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Rural Infrastructure Components for which this invitation to pre-qualify and to bid is issued.
2. The Municipality of **SOLANA, CAGAYAN**, as implementing partner of the DAR for ARCP, intends to pre-qualify contractors and if pre-qualified, to bid for the construction and completion of:

CONCRETING OF UBONG BARANGAY ROADS (2.460km. FTMR)

Minimum Equipments required

1 - Road Grader	-Owned/Leased	2 - Concrete Mixer (1 bg.)	- Owned
1 - Vib. Compactor	-Owned/Leased	1 - Concrete Screeder	- Owned
1 - Water Truck	-Owned/Leased	1 - Bar Cutter	- Owned

3. Pre-qualification forms (Pre-C) and bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders at the **MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING OFFICE**, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00)** for each set payable to the Municipal Treasurer. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Submission of application for pre-qualification must be received in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman, PBAC-ARCP, Municipality of **Solana, Cagayan** not later than **November 12, 2001**.
5. The submission and opening of bids will be on **December 12, 2001, at the Conference Hall Office of the Mayor.** No bids will be accepted later than **2:00 PM of December 12, 2001**. The bids shall be valid for a period of 120 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a security of **2.5 percent of the Total Bid Price** or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.
6. The PBAC-ARCP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify to the bidder for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **RODRIGO C. DE ASIS**
Chairman, PBAC-ARCP

(PDI--Nov. 2, 3 & 4, 2001)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education through the National Science Teaching Instrumentation Center (NSTIC) is inviting interested parties for the bidding of the Production and Delivery of Video Presentation in VHS Format with the approved budget of One Million Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P1,350,000.00).

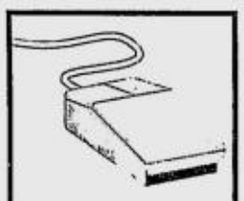
All interested suppliers of CAE must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bidding documents starting **November 5, 2001** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A Mabini Bldg., DECS Complex, Pasig City or visit the DECS website at ***http://www.decs.gov.ph***.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **November 13, 2001**, 1:00 p.m. at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, DECS Complex, Pasig City. The submission and opening of bids will be on **November 23, 2001** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DECS-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. PANGAN**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DECS-BAC

(PDI - Nov. 3 & 4, 2001)



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Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL HISTORICAL INSTITUTE
T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila

INVITATION TO BID

The National Historical Institute-Bids and Awards Committee invites contractors prequalified with the Department of Public Works and Highways to bid for the proposed repair/ rehabilitation of various structures maintained by the National Historical Institute as follows:

1. Provision of previewing/holding area, Museum of Philippine Political History, NHI, Manila
   P 4,825,000.00
2. Restoration of Paoay Church
   Paoay, Ilocos Norte
   P 1,352,039.50

Interested parties are advised to submit Letter of Intent and photocopy (with original) of their Contractors Registration Certificate (CRC) issued by the Department of Public Works and Highways together with a Credit Line equivalent of ten percent (10%) of the Project Cost issued by a reputable bank on **October 29 - November 7, 2001** at the Records Section, National Historical Institute, T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila. Bid documents shall be issued on **November 9, 2001** upon payment of non-refundable fee.

Duly accomplished bid documents shall be made in two (2) sealed envelopes as required for in PD 1594. Submission of documents and opening of bids shall be on **November 26, 2001** at 9:00 a.m. at the NHI Board Room.

Prequalified contractors shall submit their respective securities in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the total project cost at the date and time of the opening.

The NHI reserves the right not to open bids at all and restart the bid process, to reject any and/ or all prequalification and/or bids, waive any defects therein, and accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **AUGUSTO V. DE VIANA**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – Oct. 26 & Nov. 3, 2001)

MAKE A CAREER CHOICE ONLINE.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas
DISBURSEMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will conduct a prequalification of prospective bidders for One (1) Job Supply and installation of 100% Type 6.6 nylon, loop-type broadloom carpet including its accessories and removal/hauling of the existing carpet and underlay as per BSP specifications and scope of work.

For prequalification purposes, interested suppliers are required to submit to the Disbursement Control Committee thru the Administrative Services Department (ASD), Room 212, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Building, corner A. Mabini and P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila, not later than **November 22, 2001**, photocopies of the following documents (original of Nos. 1 and 2 to be presented for authentication purposes):

1. Articles of Incorporation and Business Registration Papers;
2. Y2000 audited Financial Statement (Balance Sheet & Income Statement) with Y2000 Income Tax Return;
3. Company history/profile;
4. The contractor should have a net contracting capacity of at least P36.0M computed as follows: NFCC = 10 (Current Assets minus Current Liabilities) minus (Value of all Outstanding works under ongoing contracts including awarded contract yet to be started);
5. The contractor should have at least five (5) years experience in the supply and installation of 100% branded nylon carpets similar to those specified in the project;
6) List of reference sites/successful installations with at least three (3) completed projects of similar nature costing not less than P9.5M (complete with contact person, address and telephone/fax numbers); and
7) Must submit a notarized certificate of satisfactory performance (for similar projects) from at least three (3) clients signed by the Head of the Procurement Department and Maintenance/General Services/Construction Services Head or equivalent and the designer or technical consultant of the specific projects, including the principal of partner of the design firm (in case of in-house design, the approved signatories shall be the designer and the Head of the Design/ Infrastructure Department of approved equivalent. (Forms for the purpose are available at ASD).

Only those who submit/comply with the above requirements and are initially prequalified by the Bank will be required to submit sample/s for evaluation and attend the pre-bid conference. The bidding documents including the detailed specifications and scope of work of the subject requirement can be obtained by the initially prequalified suppliers only upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00. Also, only those whose sample/s passed the product evaluation will be prequalified and invited to participate in the actual bidding which will be conducted on a later date to be advised to the prequalified suppliers.

The two-envelope system shall be adopted in the bidding.

For particulars, please contact the Manager I, Procurement Division III, Administrative Services Department, Rm. 212, 2nd Floor, 5-storey Building, Tel. No. 523-1321.

The BSP hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defect or informality in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

FOR THE DISBURSEMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO L. MAGAHIS**
Officer-In-Charge
Administrative Services Department

(PDI - Nov. 3, 2001)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education through the National Science Teaching Instrumentation Center (NSTIC) is inviting interested parties for the bidding of the Purchase, Training and Delivery of the Accessories for the Computer Aided Experiment (CAE) with the approved budget of One Million Seven Hundred Thousand Pesos (P1,700,000.00).

All interested video presentation producers must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bidding documents starting **November 5, 2001** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A Mabini Bldg., DECS Complex, Pasig City or visit the DECS website at ***http://www.decs.gov.ph***.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **November 13, 2001**, 10:00 a.m. at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, DECS Complex, Pasig City. The submission and opening of bids will be on **November 23, 2001** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DECS-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. PANGAN**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DECS-BAC

(PDI - Nov. 3 & 4, 2001)

INQUIRER
RiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Measure for measure

Can you tell shoe sizes without looking at feet or the shoes themselves? Measure the distance from your elbow to your wrist. Then measure the length of your foot. Not many people would guess it, but the two measurements are the same. Your body has some very surprising proportions. It's hard to believe that the distance around a closed fist is also the length of your foot. Still another fooler: the distance from fingertip to fingertip of your outstretched arms is the same as your height. The convenience of such 'portable' measuring devices led to the use of the parts of the body as linear measurements: the first knuckle of your thumb (inch), the foot, the distance from fingertip to nose (yard), and the hand (four inches), which is used to measure horses.

For the Record. Take any three numbered figure in which the first figure is larger than the last, say 946. Reverse it, making 649, and subtract the smaller from the larger, making 297. Now add the result (297) to the same number reversed, 792. The answer is 1089—whatever number you start with. Even if the result of the subtraction is two figures rather than three—201 minus 102, for instance, comes to 99—simply put a zero on the front before reversing it, to make the sum 099 plus 990... and the answer again is 1089.

Past Forward. This day in 1957: The Soviet satellite Sputnik 2 was fired into orbit, carrying the first living creature, a female dog named Laika, into space. Wired from snout to paw with electronic sensors, Laika fed Soviet scientists on the ground valuable data on the biological effects of takeoff and weightlessness. But there was just one catch: the animal's oxygen supply was exhausted, as planned, in 10 days, and Laika became the first living thing to die in space.

WORD WATCH

Cynophobia (sigh noh foh bi uh): morbid fear of dogs.

PDI – November 3, 2001

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

REAL ESTATE DEPARTMENT

The Social Security System is inviting offers to purchase by way of sealed bids the following properties:

LIST OF SSS ACQUIRED ASSETS FOR PUBLIC BIDDING

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	MINIMUM BID
1.	120 sq.m. TCT No. 411004 w/ 2BR and 1T&B poorly maintained bungalow	Lot 23-A Morning Star St., Monterey Hills, San Mateo, Rizal	P 336,800.00
2.	120 sq.m. TCT No. 943184 w/ 2BR and 1T&B poorly maintained bungalow	Lot 26 Blk. 10 Georgetown Heights, Molino, Bacoor, Cavite	390,000.00
3.	121 sq.m. TCT No. 407868 w/ 3BR and 1T&B fairly maintained bungalow	Lot 4 Blk. 12 Marvi Hills Subd., Ampid, San Mateo, Rizal	675,500.00
4.	300 sq.m. TCT No. 211568 w/ 2BR and 1T&B deteriorated bungalow	Lot 75 Blk. I-A #75 Eastridge Diamond Park Victoria Homes, Tunasan, Muntinlupa City	981,600.00
5.	187 sq.m. TCT R-768 deteriorated duplex converted to single unit	Lot 7-B Grace Homes, Antipolo City	326,900.00
6.	252 sq.m. TCT No. M-95566 w/ 1BR and 1T&B poorly maintained bungalow	Lot 6 Blk. 23 4th MERALCO Housing, Binangonan, Rizal	904,700.00
7.	180 sq.m. TCT No. T-356983(M) deteriorated 1-storey duplex converted to single unit	Lot 14 Blk. 5, Planas Subd., Bo. Cayslo, Sta. Maria, Bulacan	174,400.00
8.	81 sq.m. TCT No. C-346647 poorly maintained bungalow	Lot 15 Blk. 10 Villa Magdalena II, Novaliches, Quezon City	383,200.00
9.	169 sq.m. TCT No. 409379 w/ 2BR and 1T&B poorly maintained bungalow	Lot I-C-10-B-5-D Espiritu Cmpd., Poblacion, Montalban, Rizal	475,900.00
10.	115 sq.m. TCT No. 412784 w/ 2BR and 1T&B poorly maintained bungalow	Lot 22-A-2 #99-A Champagnat St., Marikina Heights, Marikina City	796,700.00
11.	94 sq.m. TCT No. 661299 w/ 2BR and 1T&B poorly maintained bungalow	Lot A-1-A Xylomelum St. Pasig Green Park Village Cainta, Rizal	594,100.00
12.	111 sq.m. TCT No. 210905 w/ 2BR and 1T&B fairly maintained bungalow	Lot 2-I-2 No. 77-B Anita Diaz (Torres) Cmpd., Mangahan Poblacion, Montalban, Rizal	466,300.00
13.	233 sq.m. TCT No. V-46643 w/ 3BR and 1T&B poorly maintained bungalow	L3-A-3 Ugong Sulok Valenzuela City	922,300.00
14.	240 sq.m. TCT No. 382983 w/ 2BR and 1T&B poorly maintained bungalow	Lot 1-A-10 Alberto Cmpd. Burgos, Montalban, Rizal	488,600.00
15.	180 sq.m. TCT No. 496870-R w/ 4BR and 2T&B fairly maintained 1-storey duplex	Lot 19 Blk. 47 Kalayaan Street Dau Homesite, Dau, Mabalacat, Pampanga	377,700.00
16.	180 sq.m. TCT No. 494055-R w/ 2BR and 1T&B fairly maintained 1-storey duplex converted to single unit	Lot 5 Blk. 69 Lanzones Street Dau Homesite, Dau, Mabalacat, Pampanga	377,300.00
17.	180 sq.m. TCT No. 492223-R w/ 2BR and 1T&B poorly maintained bungalow	Lot 46 Blk. 6 Fil-homes, Mabiga, Mabalacat, Pampanga	273,400.00
18.	168 sq.m. TCT No. 494067-R w/ 4BR and 2T&B poorly maintained 1-storey duplex	Lot 3826-1-B Purok Gloria Subd. Sindalan, San Fernando, Pampanga	367,800.00
19.	350 sq.m. TCT No. 492553-R w/ 4BR and 2T&B poorly maintained 1-storey duplex	Lot 13 Blk. 7 Airmen's Subd. Mauaque, Mabalacat, Pampanga	542,600.00
20.	180 sq.m. TCT No. 496567-R w/ 3BR and 2T&B fairly maintained 1-storey duplex	Lot 1 Blk. 62 Duquit, Dau Homesite, Mabalacat, Pampanga	402,900.00
21.	195 sq.m. TCT No. 489021-R w/ 4BR and 2T&B fairly maintained 1-storey duplex	Lot 2 Blk. 3 Don Cornello Subd. Dau Mabalacat, Pampanga	395,400.00
22.	180 sq.m. TCT No. 486545-R w/ 2BR and 1T&B fairly maintained bungalow	Lot 11 Blk. 60 No. 6081 Ubas St., Dau Homesite, Mabalacat, Pampanga	337,100.00
23.	164 sq.m. TCT No. 117953 lot only	Lot 11-A Don Bonifacio Subd. Angeles City	295,200.00
24.	287 sq.m. TCT No. 494929-R w/ 2BR and 1T&B poorly maintained bungalow	Lot 4 Blk. 18 #1437 Sta. Rosa St., Sta. Maria Homesite, Mabalacat, Pampanga	323,300.00
25.	183 sq.m. TCT No. 493586-R w/ 2BR and 1T&B fairly maintained bungalow	Lot 4 Blk. 4 G. Silang Street, Malmpis, San Fernando, Pampanga	249,700.00
26.	180 sq.m. TCT No. 493585-R w/ 2BR and 1T&B poorly maintained 1-storey duplex	Lot 49 Blk. 2 Lemen's Village, Mabalacat, Pampanga	269,500.00
27.	216 sq.m. TCT No. 493587-R w/ 2BR and 2T&B poorly maintained 1-storey duplex	Lot 16 Blk. 42 Brgy. Village, Dau, Mabalacat, Pampanga	264,400.00
28.	242 sq.m. TCT No. 492688-R w/ 3BR and 2T&B fairly maintained bungalow	Lot 18 Blk. 1 Casmor Subd. Phase I, Mabiga, Mabalacat, Pampanga	570,400.00
29.	257 sq.m. TCT No. 497182-R w/ 2BR and 1T&B fairly maintained bungalow	Lot 1 Blk. 7 Lemens Village Mabiga, Mabalacat, Pampanga	397,600.00
30.	153 sq.m. TCT No. 492895-R w/ 4BR and 2T&B poorly maintained 1-storey duplex	Lot 3826-J-2 Purok Gloria Subd. Sindalan, San Fernando, Pampanga	293,800.00

Complete description of the properties including Bidding Forms and Instructions to Bidders are available at the Real Estate Department, 5th Floor, SSS Building, East Avenue, Quezon City. Please contact Mr. Tomas M. Ramirez at Telephone No. 920-6401 local 5122 to 5128.

Sealed bids should be dropped at the Bid Box located at the Real Estate Department, 5th Floor, SSS Building, Quezon City, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:59 p.m. on **November 28, 2001**. The bids should be labeled Acquired Assets Disposal Committee, Social Security System, East Avenue, Quezon City.

Bidder's deposit, equivalent to at least 10% of the bid price in cash (Philippine money/U.S. dollar) or in Certified Manager's/Cashier's Check in favor of SSS must be enclosed with the sealed bid. (Any other form or draft purportedly as manner of payment is not acceptable). The bidder must also sign the sealed envelope across its flap. Sealed bid without the bidder's bond will not be entertained.

The Award shall be granted to the highest bidder.

The sale of the properties shall be "As Is, Where Is" and the winning bidder shall undertake the responsibility to acquire and maintain peaceful possession and enjoyment of the property without seeking the assistance of the SSS.

After deducting the bid deposit from the Bid Price, the balance shall be payable in cash within 30 days or an option to amortize within 12 months at 13% rate of interest per annum compounded monthly upon receipt of notice of approval.

The system reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to waive any defect found therein.

All awards shall be subject to the approval of the Social Security Commission whose decision shall be final and binding on all concerned.

(Sgd.) **AVP ANTONETTE L. FERNANDEZ**
Vice-Chairperson
Acquired Assets Disposal Committee

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CATALINO R. OSUNA
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His wife, children, son-in-law, grandchildren, relatives and friends: **Anastacia M. Osuna, Adelfa O. Lorega, Daisy M. Osuna** and **Jasmin M. Osuna** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Blk. 31 Lot 29 Phase I, Cityhomes Resortville Subdivision, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God.

2 Cor. 4:14

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"Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
I will fear no evil for thou art with me,
thy role and thy staff they comfort me."
Psalm 23:4

MA. LOURDES RAMONA "BABY" CUADRADO AQUINO

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on November 1, 2001.

Her loving children **Richie** and **Cathy**, **Monette** and **Guilly Alquiros**; grandchildren **Camille**, **Alfonso**, **Samantha** and **Xavier**; parents **Johnny Cuadrado** (†) and **Pilar Arenas** (†); brothers and sisters **Eddie**, **Nanette** (†), **Patchoy**, **Antonia**, **Boy** and **Corito**; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request your prayers for the repose of her soul as she is born into eternal life.

Her ashes lie at Santuario De San Jose, Northeast Greenhills, Mandaluyong City until November 4, 2001.

LIGAYA SANTIAGO NATIVIDAD

of Morong, Rizal

Died in the Grace of our Lord on October 31, 2001
at the age of 87.

Her bereaved children **Tito & Trining de Leon**, **Lolet & Rey Suñga**, **Cora & Jimmy Robles**, **Helen & Choy Capili**, **Juancho & Marilou Vicente**, and **Marie & Herman Barrios**; grandchildren **Michelle & Marlon**, **Philip**, **Louie**, **Liza**, **Romano & Angel**, **Marlie & Bong**, **Thessa**, **Raymond & Gina**, **Rowena**, **Jeanette**, **Rod**, **Sherry**, **Michael**, **Larissa**, **Julian**, **Angelin** and **Kristin**; great grandchildren **Toni** and **Diego**, and adopted daughters **Helen** and **Luz** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

The body lies in state at the family residence in Tupas Street, Morong, Rizal.

Interment will be held at the Holy Angels Memorial Park after the Holy Mass at 2:00 PM, Sunday, November 4, 2001 at the Morong Catholic Church.

We regret to announce the passing of

Gloria Nieto Intengan Vda. de Alma Jose

April 19, 1919 - October 30, 2001

A great mother to **Joey** (deceased), **Alma**, **Rene**, **Noel**, **Guia** and **Liza**. A wonderful mother-in-law to **Rowena**, **Heidi**, **Edred**, **Manolito**, **Delma**, **Ramon** and **Peter**. A super lola to **Pocholo**, **Susie**, **Mae**, **Joey**, **Bj**, **Gigi**, **Paulo**, **Sharon**, **Sunshine**, **Iris**, **Sofia**, **Carlo**, **Aj**, **Marco**, **Luis**, **Laura** and a great grandma to **Lorenzo**, **Stefano**, **Geil** and **Andre**.

A lady of substance... she is our family's jewel.

Her body lies in state at Chapel 2-C, Nacional Memorial Homes, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Sunday, November 4, 2001 at Loyola Marikina Crematory after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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PEACHY MERCADO HERRERA

Born on May 1, 1954

Died peacefully in the Lord's arms
on October 26, 2001

We will all miss **Peachy** so much. She had graced our lives with unselfish love. Facing life without her would be very hard, as she had touched the hearts of everyone and filled them with overflowing affection. She leaves behind heavy hearts and countless happy memories.

Peachy was cremated and laid to rest on October 27, 2001.

Let us all rejoice as **Peachy** is now with her mother in Heaven. Her presence will remain in our hearts forever.

We request her dear friends who wish to express their feelings of loss to generously give to Peachy's most loved institutions: CRIBS Philippines (tel. nos. 6815921/6818078) and SVD Retirement House (in Christ the King Seminary).

ATTY. JOSE "PEPING" VILLANUEVA ADRIANO

December 1, 1923 - November 1, 2001

is now joyfully and safely home with his Maker.

His bereaved wife **Annie**; children **Rheena** & **Jorge Consunji**, **Stella** & **Joseph Sacramento**, **Dicky** & **Tess**, **Sylvia** & **Ted Haresco**, **Emil**, **Annette** & **Enrique** (†) **Lim**, and **Liza** & **Jojo Aquino**; and grandchildren **Maoui**, **David**, **Rieanne** & **Margaret Consunji**, **Karen Mendieta**, **Derick**, **Cathy** & **Brandon**, **Jose** & **Amara Haresco**, **Elise**, **Elaine** & **Erica Lim** and **Lianza** & **Kyle Aquino**; brothers, sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His earthly remains now lie in state at the Capilla de la Virgen Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

In lieu of flowers, kindly give your donations to the Cancer Ward, UP-PGH.

Interment is tentatively scheduled on Sunday, November 4 after the 3:00 p.m. Mass at Santuario de San Antonio.

Safely Home
Our Dear Mommy

LUZ ASENSI FERNANDO

Peacefully joined our Creator on November 1, 2001
at the age of 77.

Together with **Alberto**, our Dad; we, her children **Menchit** & **Bim Aquino**, **Manny** & **Nel Zarate**, **Milette** & **Alan Tabhan** and **Boyet** & **Annete Villegas**; her grandchildren **Aki**, **Albert**, **Zachary**, **Mica**, **Packy**, **Thea**, **Richard**, and **Julian**; her sisters, other relatives, and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Our Lady of Consolation Church, Mira Nila Subdivision, Tandang Sora, Quezon City where Holy Mass will be held daily at 7:30 PM. A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2001 at 7:00 AM.

"Lord, in Your kindness, accept these gifts for our departed brothers and sisters and for all who sleep in Christ."

Engr. Jesus Miranda Ignacio

of Roxas City and Loyola Heights, Quezon City
UP College of Engineering 1951

Peacefully joined his Creator on November 2, 2001 at the age of 74.

His remains lie in state at the Mortuary Chapel of the Sta. Maria della Strada Parish Church, Katipunan Avenue corner Pansol Street, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, November 6, 2001 after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

Please pray for his eternal repose. With much gratitude from his bereaved family:

His loving wife **Remedios Fernando Ignacio**

Children, in-laws and grandchildren:

Marian
Jojee and **Me-an**
Cisco, *Aliya* and *Ayel*
Joel and **Sharon**
Katha, *Ingrid* and *Cara*
Fr. Clem
Joven
Jom and **Mel**
Carlo and *Gino*
Andres and **Ching**
Miguel and *Paolo*
Jaime and **Lulu**
Leano and *Nico*

Sisters:
Betty and **Josephine**

In lieu of flowers, donation to Our Lord of Pentecost Parish of Loyola Heights, Quezon City will be highly appreciated.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

EXPERT'S WARNING

Colder months mean flu season

BY CHARLES E. BUBAN

EVER notice the cool breeze that makes waking up in the morning more challenging? An influenza expert says cool weather doesn't just encourage sleepiness, it also brings illness if you fail to take adequate health precautions. In fact, the sudden change in weather and the approaching cool month of December will trigger another influenza season.

"We should be careful because during cool weather, a person's immune system is not working at its peak, making him more vulnerable to viruses that remain suspended in the air," warns Dr. Veronica Chan, a director at the World Health Organization National Influenza Center. "Since people tend to stay close—like families staying together for the holidays—the chances of spreading the virus increases," she elaborates.

At a public health forum of the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development, Chan says that influenza peaks during the rainy months of July to September and again from December to February, when the temperature is cooler.

"This occurs annually, yet most people take flu for granted," laments Chan who is also a former dean and professor emeritus at University of the Philippines College of Public Health's Department of Medical Biology.

Compared with most other viral respiratory infections, like the common cold, influenza infection often causes a more severe illness. "Typical" influenza includes fever (usually 37.7°C to 39.4°C in adults and often even higher in children) and respiratory symptoms, such as cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, as well as headache, muscle aches and extreme fatigue.

Most people who get the flu recover completely in one to two weeks, but some people develop serious and potentially life-threatening medical complications, such as bronchitis and pneumonia.

"Left untreated, the flu can further complicate chronic ailments such as asthma, cardiac diseases, renal and kidney insufficiency, as well as metabolic diseases such as diabetes," says Chan.

Flu-related complications can occur at any age. However, the elderly and people with chronic health problems are much more likely to develop serious complications after an influenza infection because their immune system is already weakened.

Different strains

The disease results from various strains of the influenza virus.

"This virus changes constantly, that is, why although you were exposed to similar strains in the past, you might not be able to defend yourself against a new one," notes Chan.

The flu virus has three types: A, B and C. Type A is the most prevalent and is associated with the most serious epidemics while Type B can also reach epidemic proportions but is generally milder. Type C has never been connected to any large epidemic.

Influenza type A viruses are divided into subtypes based on differences in two viral proteins found inside the virus: hemagglutinin (H) and neuraminidase (N). These differences are used to identify the subtypes of the virus, such as A(H1N1) and A(H3N2).

Transmission

The flu virus is transmitted by inhaling a respiratory droplet from an infected person or by indirect contact, such as drinking from a contaminated glass. Recently, another strain of the virus was able to cross directly from birds to humans. Scientists had previously said such transmission was impossible.

A team of international virologists at the WHO Center in Erasmus University, Rotterdam, reported that the "bird flu" outbreak in Hong Kong in May 1997 was spread directly from chickens to humans. They found this out after they compared a new flu virus called H5N1, which was taken from a boy who died from the outbreak, with the virus found in infected chicken.

Recorded in history

The flu is not a new illness. In medieval times, people believed that epidemics like influenza were due to the "influence" of the stars, and that was how the disease got its name. The first flu virus was identified in the 1930s.

In the 20th century, the sudden emergence of antigenically different strains in humans, or the antigenic shift, had resulted to worldwide epidemics, or pandemics. Antigenic shifts occur only occasionally but when they do, the new virus is capable of causing pandemics. During the 20th century, pandemics occurred in 1918, 1957 and 1968, all of which resulted in numerous deaths.

The 1918-1919 "Spanish flu," A(H1N1), killed more people than World War I. The death toll was somewhere between 20 and 40 million. The 1957-1958 "Asian flu," A(H2N2), claimed 70,000 lives in the United States while the 1968-1969 "Hong Kong flu," A(H3N2), claimed 34,000 deaths in the States.

New strains of the flu virus emerge approximately every 100 years.

Prevention

Although only a few different influenza viruses circulate at any given time, people can become ill with the flu many times in their lives. The reason for this continuing susceptibility is that influenza viruses are continually changing, usually as a result of mutations of the viral genes.

The flu vaccine contains viruses representing each of the three influenza strains. Each year the vaccine is updated to include the most current influenza virus strains.

"The fact that influenza viruses continually change is one of the reasons the vaccine must be taken every year. The optimal time for vaccination (in the Philippines) during May, just before the onset of rains," says Chan.

However, Chan is reminding the public that protection against the flu is not 100 percent.

"The vaccine's efficacy varies from one person to another. When a vaccinated person still gets the flu, there are effective drugs that can be taken," she says.

Among the flu drugs available are Relenza of Glaxo-Wellcome and Tamiflu from Roche Holdings Ltd. and Gilead Sciences, which inhibit an enzyme crucial to viral reproduction. They have been proven effective when administered early during infection.

Birds can carry flu, too

"I had a little bird,
Its name was Enza.
I opened the window,
and in-flu-enza."

SO goes this nursery rhyme that was popular in the 1910s. People back then didn't really know a lot about the flu except that it kills many, and quickly. Little did they know that this verse could hold a clue where influenza epidemics may have originated.

There are still many things about influenza viruses that are not understood. But where they came from is no longer a mystery.

"Migratory birds, especially wild ducks and geese, are now believed to be important reservoirs of the flu virus," says Dr. Veronica Chan, a director at the World Health Organization National Influenza Center.

Says Chan: "Most affected are the live-bird markets housing together a wide variety of avian species (chickens, ducks, geese, pigeon, turkeys, pheasants, guinea fowl), occasionally with pigs, for sale directly to the public. They provide outstanding conditions for genetic mixing and spreading of influenza viruses."

Tracing the virus to these birds was not easy because the carrier was usually asymptomatic, it did not manifest the disease's symptoms yet it carried them around. The carrier passed the virus to other animals through their excretion or even mere contact with animals including humans.

"Some of these migratory birds (go to the Philippines) when it's winter from where they (originate)," explains Chan.

Carriers in livestock

In another development, a team of health experts from WHO and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention believe recent flu outbreaks may have begun in China where humans and animals lived in close contact. A 14-man team went to Guangdong province in southern China during the height of the avian flu epidemic in Hong Kong, to visit poultry farms and look for traces of the virus. Their theory was however denied by the Chinese authorities.

As the team began its work, a new study was published showing similarities between the Hong Kong bird flu and the Spanish flu, which killed between 20 and 40 million in three years from 1918. In Hong Kong, six people out of the 18 known cases of infection died.

Scientists from Hong Kong and the CDC say the new bird flu, known as influenza A(H5N1), bears the marks of highly dangerous viruses.

In their report, they say that an influenza pandemic could begin with isolated cases, in which avian or swine influenza viruses adapt to human hosts or over time genetically rearrange with the human influenza A virus.

Because the virus is a new strain, people have little natural immunity to it.

"But most flu viruses that are highly dangerous in birds do not replicate efficiently in humans so they are not necessarily virulent to us," assures Chan.

Charles E. Buban

Those with diets low in rice mineral likely to have flu

CHAPEL HILL, North Carolina—Poor nutrition leads to mutations that create more dangerous forms of the influenza virus and may contribute to new virulent outbreaks of viral epidemics ranging from the common cold to AIDS and Ebola hemorrhagic fever, researchers said.

Deficiencies of selenium allowed the human influenza virus to mutate into more virulent forms in mice, and a similar mutation is likely to occur in people, researchers said in a study in the FASEB Journal published by the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology.

Selenium, which is found in meat and grains like wheat and rice, is a component of an antioxidant enzyme that helps the body fight off infections.

"Once the mutations have occurred, even mice with normal nutrition are more susceptible to the newly virulent strain," said researcher Melinda Beck of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. "Poor nutritional status may contribute to the emergence of new viral strains and might promote epidemics."

In the study, groups of mice with normal and selenium-deficient diets were exposed to Influenza A Bangkok, a mild strain of the human influenza virus. Although researchers had expected the malnourished mice to be sicker than the well-fed ones, they confirmed that the virus also mutated to a greater degree in these mice.

The research also confirmed earlier studies into the causes of mutations of a virus, Coxsackie B3, linked to a heart disease known as Keshan disease. The disease, once found in China among children and women of childbearing age with diets low in selenium, was largely eradicated by dietary supplements, the researchers said. *Reuters*

Managing the daily demands of diabetes

DIABETES experts know you can stay healthy with diabetes if you control your blood sugar.

But balancing the daily demands of diabetes is a challenge. Life is fast-paced and days don't always go as planned. One day you need to eat breakfast on the go. The next day an afternoon activity delays dinner.

Also, life today is full of choices. One day you go for a walk, the next day you might take a bicycle ride. Dinner might be at home today or in a restaurant tomorrow. One weekend you hike, and the next one you clean the house.

With all these choices and challenges, you need practical advice to help you control your blood sugar, no matter what happens.

The carbohydrates in foods raise blood sugar levels the fastest and the highest after you eat. That doesn't mean you shouldn't eat foods with carbohydrates. In fact, foods with carbohydrates are some of the healthiest to eat. They're packed with energy, vitamins and minerals, and they don't contain much fat.

Carbohydrate servings

Most adults need about four to five carbohydrate servings each meal. To control your blood sugar level, you should eat a similar number of carbohydrate servings during each meal and eat the same time each day.

How much food you eat is important, too. You can still eat the food you enjoy, but you might need to take less of them. If you need to lose weight to help control your blood sugar levels, try eating smaller portions.

Fat is loaded with calories. You find fat in meats, salad dressing, margarine, oil, chips, fried food and more. Too much saturated fat is unhealthy for your heart. You find saturated fat in meats, whole milk and other full-fat dairy foods, butter, coconut palm and hydrogenated oils. To cut down on calories and eat "heart healthy," skim the fat.

Change eating habits

Eating right if you have diabetes is not just about following a "diet." You will also need to slowly change your eating habits. Don't expect to make quick and drastic changes just because you have diabetes.

First, think about your current eating habits and food choices.

Next, think about few and easy changes you can make, like taking one more serving of vegetables a day, switching to fat-free milk or eating a smaller portion of food high in fat or carbohydrates.

Becoming more active is another thing you can do to lower your blood sugar levels. Start a few minutes of activity each day. Walk to the bus stop, work in the garden, clean the house, or ride a bike. Work up to a total of 30 minutes of activity each day. Being active also has other health benefits. It can control your lipids (fat) and blood pressure.

Your diabetes goals may include weight loss to improve your blood sugar control. You and your health care providers might want to discuss how Mead Johnson's Choice DM could take the place of a meal or snack. It is convenient because it takes away the decision of what to eat.

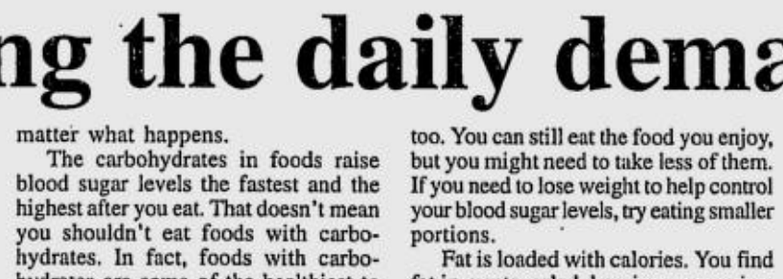
This supplement beverage is specially formulated for people with diabetes. It has 25 vitamins and minerals including 100 percent of the US RDA's for vitamins E and C, and is lactose-free. It also has fiber, which has been shown to lower blood sugar response.

Bone expert stresses need for strict compliance in osteoporosis treatment

THE CHIEF consideration when treating osteoporosis sufferers should be the reduction in the incidence of fractures. But improving compliance among patients with osteoporosis should also be an important factor in managing the disease.

These were the points emphasized by Pierre D. Delmas during a scientific lecture held last month at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel in celebration of the World Osteoporosis Month. Delmas is a professor of medicine at the Université Claude Bernard of Lyon, France and the director of the Inserm Research Unit 403 on Pathophysiology of Osteoporosis at the Hospital Edouard Herriot.

According to Delmas, many treatments have been suggested in managing osteoporosis but only a few have addressed the issue of antifracture efficacy and patient compliance. Though calcium and low-dose vitamin D supplementation are valuable for osteoporosis sufferers and among elderly institutionalized women, in most cases these are not enough to substantially decrease fracture risk.



PROFESSOR Delmas discusses a new study on alendronate sodium (Fosamax) showing that by simplifying the dosing regimen from once-daily to once-weekly, osteoporosis sufferers' convenience has improved.

Delmas, who is also president of the International Osteoporosis Foundation, said that in most western countries, hormone replacement therapy (HRT) is considered as the "gold standard" for the prevention of osteoporosis. But a major problem with HRT is low compliance, resulting in the cessation of treatment within one year. And there are women who do not want to take HRT, especially out of fear of developing breast cancer.

Effective alternative

With the development of a new class of agents such as bisphosphonates, the most potent inhibitors of bone resorption that have been used in a variety of metabolic bone diseases, the incidence of fractures has been reduced.

Alendronate sodium is the first bisphosphonate widely available for which there is consistent and convincing evidence of antifracture efficacy. Among patients with osteoporosis, alendronate sodium reduces the incidence of vertebral fractures by about 50 percent and the incidence of nonvertebral fractures (including the hip) by 30 to 50 percent.

Delmas said there is a new study on alendronate sodium showing that by simplifying the dosing regimen from once daily to once weekly, patient compliance has improved.

"In the study, nearly nine out of 10 postmenopausal women with osteoporosis preferred a 70 mg once weekly dosing regimen of alendronate sodium compared to a 10 mg once daily regimen," he said.

"The study also showed that the new dosage strength of 70 mg had an equivalent effect of once-a-day treatments in increasing bone mineral density (BMD) among postmenopausal women," he said.

Delmas said the convenience of long-term treatment plays a key role when it comes to compliance considering the age bracket of osteoporosis sufferers.

Alendronate sodium, marketed as Fosamax in the Philippines, should be used with caution in people with certain stomach or digestive problems. Patients are encouraged to always consult their doctor in the management and treatment of osteoporosis.

RP to host int'l sports, fitness show

A PAVILION showcasing the latest sports, fitness and leisure products manufactured in the United States and distributed worldwide will be one of the major attractions of the FIT International Sports, Fitness and Leisure Show scheduled for May 23-26, 2002 at the World Trade Center, Metro Manila.

Also expected to display their products in the first trade show of its kind to be held in the Philippines are manufacturers of sports, fitness and leisure goods from the Philippines and from other Asia-Pacific countries.

The trade show will feature products used in team and individual sports events, fitness apparel and footwear, equipment for medical rehabilitation, fitness machines and travel and leisure items.

Bulk buyers, distributors and wholesalers have signified their participation in the trade show organized by Leverage International (Consultants). For inquiries, call Beth Cruz or Rolland Sanchez at 818-6828, 813-2473, and 810-1389.

Study reports stroke, heart attack reduction

BY REBECCA CASTILLO, MD
The Charter Bureau

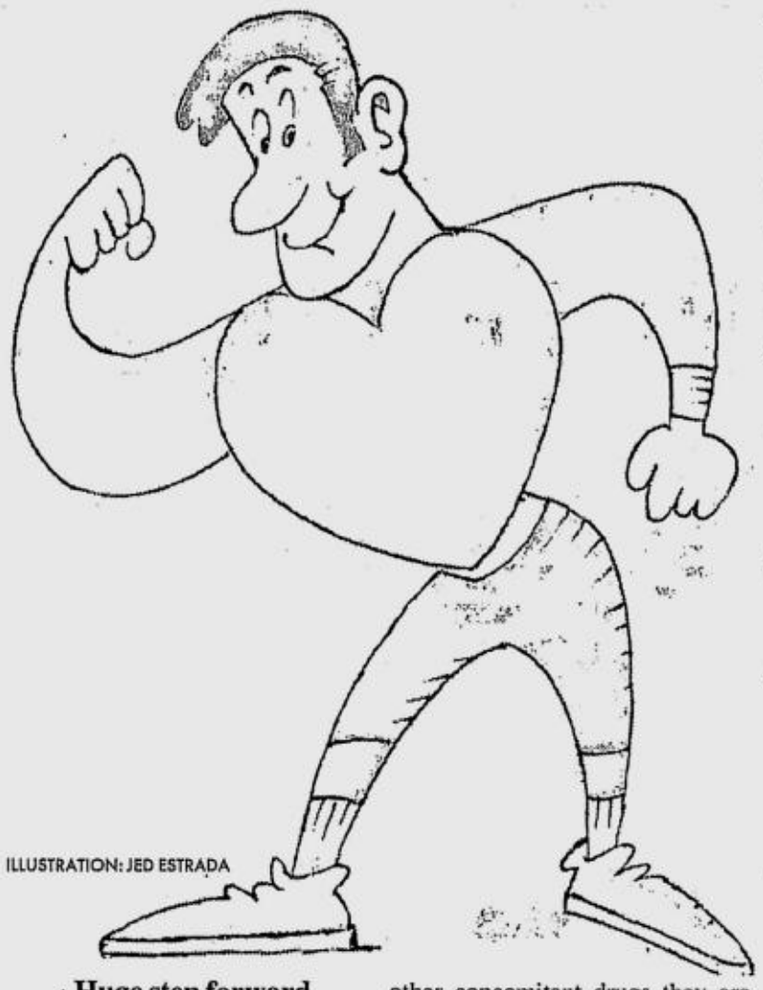


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

THE RISK of a heart attack and a recurrent stroke can be significantly reduced with blood-pressure lowering therapies, based on a landmark study published in the Sept. 28, 2001 issue of the prestigious medical journal Lancet.

The results of the Progress (Perindopril pROtection aGainst Recurrent Stroke Study), headed by Prof. John Chalmers of the University of Sydney and Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, show that one in every 18 stroke sufferers given perindopril, with or without the diuretic indapamide avoided either heart attack, death or a repeat stroke in five years of treatment. This benefit was seen more among patients who had high blood pressure, but those with normal blood pressure or BP benefited as well suggesting a possible non-BP related beneficial effect of the study drugs.

The study results, which were first presented in the European Society of Cardiology meeting in Milan, Italy, in June, were also presented by two of the investigators in the recently concluded Asian Pacific Congress of Cardiology hosted here by the Philippine Heart Association at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

Professors Geoffrey Donnan; director of the of the National Stroke Research Institute in Australia, and Stephen Harrap, head of the Department of Physiology at the University of Melbourne, came despite the unfavorable travel advisory on the Philippines to personally give heart specialists in the Asia-Pacific region firsthand information on the details of the study.

Professor Harrap explained the well-designed study methodology and statistical analysis of the results, which showed a 28-percent reduction in total strokes (fatal and nonfatal), and a 26-percent reduction in major cardiovascular events including nonfatal stroke, nonfatal heart attack and cardiovascular deaths.

According to Professor Donnan, who is a principal investigator of the study and a member of its management committee, the Progress findings are likely to change the way physicians manage stroke patients. "In essence, regardless of initial blood pressure," concluded Professor Donnan, "all patients after stroke should be considered for perindopril-based therapy unless contraindicated."

Huge step forward

Lead investigator Professor Chalmers described the study results as "a huge step forward" in the management of cardiovascular diseases. He explained that the old belief was that antihypertensive therapy was only useful for patients with high blood pressure.

"With the Progress data," Professor Chalmers said, "we have shown that perindopril and indapamide have beneficial effects not only for those with hypertension, but also for the much larger number of stroke patients with normal blood pressure.

Currently available data indicate that more than two-thirds of all strokes occur in people who do not have high BP as defined by the World Health Organization standards.

At present, physicians do not normally give BP-lowering drugs to the majority of stroke sufferers for fear that the BP reduction might do more harm than good if the blood pressures of these patients were already normal. One of the study organizers, Prof. Stephen MacMahon of the University of Sydney, said that there is a strong case for making the Progress drugs available to most stroke patients irrespective of their age, blood pressures and other concomitant drugs they are taking.

"The benefits are unusually large and occur in a wide range of patients," Professor MacMahon said.

The only treatment

At present, aspirin is the only treatment given widely to prevent recurrent stroke, but it is only given for those who had a transient ischemic attack or warning stroke, and those who had an ischemic stroke caused by obstruction of an artery in the brain. Patients who had cerebral hemorrhage or bleeding in the brain are not considered suitable for aspirin therapy.

In Progress, the study drugs reduced the risk of stroke by as much as 75 percent among patients who had previously suffered a cerebral hemorrhage.

Hence, this group of stroke patients tend to benefit the most from perindopril and indapamide therapy.

The study was initiated by independent and well-respected heart specialists worldwide and conducted in 172 hospitals in Europe, Asia and Australia. It was supported by grants from national medical research agencies in Australia and New Zealand, together with the French pharmaceutical company Servier.

The frozen cola and the matchstick speedboat, a reprise

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

(First of two parts)

A MONTH ago, we featured two questions by reader Benedict Ouano [baouano@edsamail.com.ph]. The first pertained to a rather strange phenomenon: Why does a cold drink (such as cola) freeze immediately upon opening? (Sept. 8, 2001). I confessed to being stumped by it, and to my delight, several readers immediately wrote offering their explanations.

A reader who did not wish to be identified had done some research. "I checked the Coke website and a quick glance did not point me to an answer. But according to the 'Handbook of Chemistry and Physics,' the melting point of ice is depressed 2.5°C, with 336 kg/sq cm. That seems to be a rather high pressure, but it does show that pressure affects the melting point of ice. There is also a cooling effect from the release of pressure. Most spray cans will be cooler when pressure is released. The air released from the valve stem of a tire will also be cooler. Perhaps the combination of pressure keeping the Coke in a liquid state below the normal freezing point of liquid coupled with the cooling effect of the release of the gas cause the liquid to form ice crystals. I wish I could pinpoint a detailed explanation though with a source citation."

However, this reader wrote to Coca-Cola and received this reply from Elizabeth [equeriesica @na.ko.com]: "Thank you for contacting The Coca-Cola Company. You may be interested to know that we recommend our products be consumed between 36 and 38°F. We do not monitor the exact freezing temperatures of each of our products. However, our diet products freeze at a temperature similar to water. Coca-Cola classic freezes at a slightly lower temperature, about 30°F. The pressure in an unopened bottle or can will cause the freezing point to be even lower. All diet beverages will freeze before their sugar counterparts. Sugars lower the freezing point of liquids. This means that the temperature must be lower than the normal freezing point of water before it freezes."

Dr. Roy B. Tumlos of the National Institute of Physics, UP Diliman [troyb@nip.upd.edu.ph] says: "This usually happens when one puts the bottle inside the freezer where the temperature goes below 0°C. We know water freezes at 0°C (assuming a pressure of one atmosphere), and in the case of the cola, a little below that. When the cola is bottled, it is below higher than one atmosphere pressure. Therefore, the freezing point is actually reduced further. Most liquids behave this way—the freezing point is reduced when the pressure is increased. When the bottle, directly coming from the freezer, is opened...it begins to freeze because at one atmosphere pressure, it is still at a temperature

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

below its freezing point."

M. T. [kayobi@hotmail.com] expands on the above explanation: "Because of the ingredients of Coke (sugar, etc.), the freezing temperature of Coke is lower than that of water. The empty space at the top contains mostly carbon dioxide, which increases internal pressure. If you suddenly open such a bottle, the high internal pressure will force the liquid to gush out, the carbonation bubbles will pop out of the liquid (even inside the bottle), and the depressurized liquid, combined with external moisture, will freeze almost instantly within the bottle. Another explanation is that aside from carbon dioxide, the space contains other gases and vapors as well—(including) water vapor, because Coke is mostly water. When the bottle is opened, gases and vapors in the neck expand rapidly into the surroundings, thus the temperature there drops precipitously. It is estimated that if the temperature of the small space is 5°C before opening, it may drop to about –36°C immediately after opening. As the Coke has just unfrozen, its temperature is still near 0°C. It may freeze again as a result of the temperature drop due to gas expansion. I would also like to warn readers not to leave Coke in cans or glass bottles inside the freezer for too long, because the items might explode, creating a mess. Believe me, it is not easy to clean up afterward. I admire you for admitting not knowing some things, unlike those know-it-all columnists. You may want to refer to www.uselessinformation.com for the answers to certain questions."

For a more detailed explanation, we refer to Gil Vicente F. Descallar [gilvides@pworld.net.ph]: "A cola drink that is supercooled suddenly solidifies a few seconds after it is opened. Strictly and technically speaking, microscopic ice crystals formed since the liquid itself did not turn into a solid block upon attaining its freezing point. This phenomenon is due to trapped carbon dioxide molecules between the ice crystals, when carbon dioxide was mixed with liquid cola (gas-liquid mixture) to give the drink its patented kick or taste. These are usually referred to as carbonated beverages and when they are opened, tiny bubbles rise to the top (effervescence of carbon dioxide released in the air). I used the term 'supercooled' to refer to a liquid whose freezing point is much lower than that of water. Basically, soft drinks and cola are water mixed with nonvolatile substances and a gas, carbon dioxide. Water mixed with a variety of substances other than volatile ones would exhibit lower melting and boiling points. Moreover, water is the only liquid that contracts when heated and expands when cooled or frozen."

"Going back to the original query, freezing and boiling are just two of the physical manifestations that can be observed in liquids at certain atmospheric conditions (pressure). Thus, liquid may freeze or melt and boil at different temperatures in varying atmospheric pressures. The supercooled cola, prior to its consumption, was in a state of equilibrium since the pressure within its container somehow prevented the liquid from expanding, albeit temporarily—although the required coolness would have sufficed under normal atmospheric conditions. When it can no longer hold on to the expanding liquid, the container bursts its seams or breaks the bottle. Opening the bottle gives rise to the phenomenon under discussion."

Martin Soriano [academic2002 @yahoo.com] adds: "The pressure-temperature relationship is also why scuba divers who ascend suddenly free liquid oxygen to become gas. At the bottom of the sea there is greater atmospheric pressure. I am actually very strict with my soft drinks. I like them ice cold as much as possible—and I mean ice cold. Just wet the surface of the bottle with water (or wash it) before opening. This will somehow lessen the chances of Coke freezing before you get to drink it. I like my soft drinks L.A. style (this is how they serve it in Los Angeles)—really cold. I get freaked out here in Manila when they say, '*Malamig po*,' and when you get the bottle, it is slightly above room temperature. Yikes!"

(Next week: the matchstick speedboat)

FREE COACHING SEMINAR FOR NURSES

Close to 400 nurses attended the free coaching seminar offered by JS Contractor Inc. and RA Gapuz Review Center. The one-day session focused on "Most Commonly Asked Questions in Foreign Nursing Exams" and tips for CGFNS and NCLEX examinees. Mary Jean Pelayo-Borra, president of JS Contractor, briefed the nurses at the Manila Midtown Hotel. JS Contractor has deployed some 10,000 professional and skilled workers abroad since 1979.

Facts on osteoporosis

THE ASIAN Hospital and Medical Center joins hands with the Department of Health in disseminating information on one of the diseases that afflicts Filipino women—osteoporosis.

Dr. Antonio Rivera, AHMC Orthopedics department head, defines osteoporosis as a disease characterized by low bone mass and structural deterioration of bone tissue, leading to bone fragility and an increased susceptibility to fractures.

"It is often called the 'silent disease' because bone loss occurs without symptoms. People may not know that they have osteoporosis until their bones become so weak that a sudden strain, bump or fall causes a fracture," adds Dr. Rivera, a diplomate of both the American and Philippine Board of Orthopedic Surgery. He is the founding president of the Philippine Orthopedic Society for Sports Medicine, which looks after the treatments needed by athletes. He is likewise a founding member of various international organizations such as the Asian Federation of Sports Medicine, the Western Pacific Orthopaedic Association and the International Association for Dance Medicine and Science.

Dr. Rivera further states that osteoporosis occurs during advanced age, particularly on women who are in the menopausal stage. It is likewise a manifestation of a lack of calcium and phosphate intake.

"Calcium and phosphate are two minerals that are essential for normal bone formation," says Dr. Rivera. "As people age, calcium and phosphate may be reabsorbed back into the body from older bones, which results into brittleness and weakness of bone tissue making the person susceptible to fractures even in the absence of trauma." In other words, there is a "cannibalism" that occurs, where bones take on the nutrients of other bones for development.

In addition to the lack of calcium and phosphate, other risk factors include having a family history of osteoporosis, hormonal imbalance (abnormal absence of menstrual periods for women and low testosterone levels for men), an inactive lifestyle, cigarette smoking, as well as excessive use of alcohol.

Osteoporosis prevention should be made early on in life. A woman normally acquires 98 percent of her skeletal mass by the age of 20 so building strong bones during childhood and adolescence can be the best defense against osteoporosis.

Dr. Rivera notes that there are four basic steps to avoid osteoporosis and these measures should be taken as a whole since not one step alone is enough. These include:

- A balanced diet rich in calcium and phosphate.
- A healthy lifestyle with no smoking and limited alcohol intake.
- Weight-bearing exercise.
- Bone density testing and medication, when appropriate.

Of course, it is still best to consult a specialist, especially when in doubt. As Dr. Rivera puts it, "Orthopedics is all about improving the quality of life more than anything else. How can you enjoy a favorite sport or past time that involves physical mobility if you are on crutches or confined on a wheelchair?"

The case of the holiday blues

BY DR. RAFAEL CASTILLO

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

ON ALL Souls' Day last year, Noemi S. had a severe bout of holiday blues. Dr. Bernardo Jorge Conde, head of neurology and psychiatry at the Santo Tomas University Hospital, assured her that she would be all right.

"You're not going to die yet, as you keep on feeling you would. It's just part of your depression," the kind doctor, who is also the president of the Philippine chapter of the Asian Union Against Depression, told Noemi.

Noemi is a 44-year-old housewife who has been taking care of her husband for the last several years. The husband has been disabled, especially in the last two years. Since five years ago, he was diagnosed to have severe heart disease complicated by an equally severe chronic lung problem. He has been in and out of the hospital for chest pains and difficulty of breathing. Noemi has always been at his bedside, usually getting only a few hours of sleep each night.

Middle of last year, Noemi started to feel shortness of breath, chest pains, palpitations and choking sensations accompanied by cold sweats—essentially the same symptoms complained of by her husband. These symptoms became progressive, associated with a fear of dying, emotional lability and uncontrollable preoccupation with her husband's lingering illness. She was rushed to the emergency room on several occasions, and after thorough physical examinations and laboratory evaluations by whoever was on duty at the ER, she would be sent home. In a few weeks, she would be back with the same distressing "emergency-like" symptoms. Dr. Conde was therefore requested to evaluate her.

MEDICAL FILES

Diagnosis

Dr. Conde lent her a sympathetic ear each time they talked. He wanted Noemi to ventilate all her pent-up problems and conflicts. The first time they talked, she claimed she was not getting any better. In fact, she felt she was getting worse each day. She has lost considerable weight, which was attributed to her poor appetite and lack of sleep. She had neglected her daily house chores, and her grooming as well. On several occasions, she strongly considered ending her life, but she thought of her husband, who would be left with no one to take care of should she leave him behind. She progressively felt miserable and dejected. She was diagnosed by Dr. Conde to have mixed-anxiety depression.

Depression is defined as a feeling of intense sadness which follows a sad event or series of events such as the death of a loved one, or in Noemi's case, the lingering illness of her husband together with the litany of problems brought about by her husband's medical condition. Dr. Conde explains that the characteristic feature of depression is that it is usually out of proportion to the perceived problem and it persists beyond an appropriate length of time.

After anxiety, depression is the next leading cause of psychiatric disorder. It may come and go with each episode lasting for six to nine months. It may last for two years or more in some cases and a good number of these patients may see the doctor for bothersome signs and symptoms. The physician is likely to do a battery of tests just to rule out actual physical problems.

Triggering factors

Although a triggering factor in the patient's history leading to depression is usually identified, the exact cause is still not known. Some persons are more predisposed to depression than other people. Some of the probable predisposing factors are familial tendency (heredity), an introverted personality, side-effects of certain medications, and emotionally upsetting events.

Gender appears to be another factor since women are twice as likely as men to experience depression. Women tend to respond to adversity by withdrawing into themselves and blaming themselves for the sad event or upsetting event that had happened. Hormones may play a role here since women are more predisposed to mood changes and depression shortly before menstruation (premenstrual tension) and after childbirth (postpartum depression).

Some literatures also identify a possible role of oral contraceptives and abnormal thyroid function, a medical problem which is relatively more common in women. Male spouses should realize this gender predisposition of the women in their lives so they can understand them and be more supportive of them when they have episodes of depression.

Depression following a traumatic event is called situational depression while some people may become temporarily depressed as a reaction to certain holidays such as All Saints' and All Souls' Day (holiday blues). When there's no apparent precipitating event, it is called endogenous depression.

Signs and symptoms

The signs and symptoms of depression may develop gradually over a period of days or weeks. One may present with withdrawal, characterized by a paucity of speech, depressed appetite and insomnia. This is called vegetative depression. On the other hand, some may become restless, talking continuously. This type is called agitated depression.

Aside from sleep problems, other common manifestations of depression are loss of sexual desire, anorexia and weight loss leading to emaciation, and cessation of menstruation in women. In mild depressions, some may present differently as overeating and excessive weight gain.

Depressed individuals are said to have difficulty in experiencing and expressing emotions—grief, joy and pleasure—normally. To them, life and the world have become barren, colorless and meaningless. As the depression progresses, mental function slows down and all voluntary activities stop. They tend to be filled with intense feelings of guilt, self-denigrating ideas and magnified negative ideas about themselves. They feel progressively helpless and hopeless and to many of them at this stage, death and suicide are the easiest way out of their predicament.

Untreated depression may last 6 months or longer with the individual able to "shake off" the depression by himself or herself spontaneously. However, most people with depression experience recurrences which may become progressively more severe. Professional help is needed in such cases.

Significant depression is usually treated by psychotherapy on an outpatient basis. Hospitalization may be required if there is a suicidal inclination, excessive frailty or malnutrition, and risk for heart complications because of agitation.

Drug treatment and psychotherapy are the mainstays in treating significant depression. In cases of severe depression, particularly when the patient is already psychotic, threatening to commit suicide, or is refusing to eat, electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) may be used wherein an electric current is applied to induce a seizure on the brain. The seizures apparently alleviate depression. It may however cause loss of memory in some cases.

Advice

Dr. Conde painstakingly counseled Noemi so she would understand her condition. He also advised the other family members to give her the much-needed moral support. He prescribed Noemi tianeptine (Stablon), an antidepressant pill together with a mild bezodiazepine for her insomnia.

Noemi and her family complied with all the doctor's instructions. Most of her distressing symptoms abated and she slept better each night, although she would still wake up from time to time to check on her husband and to attend to his needs. She progressively improved and now, she no longer experiences panic attacks and her anxiety symptoms have been reduced to manageable levels. Her incapacitating concerns about her health have been laid to rest, as well as her exaggerated gloomy outlook about her husband's lingering illness.

Noemi has regained her zest for life, grateful to God for each day she and her husband remain together.

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Treat of the Week

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2001

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SaturdaySPECIAL

NESTOR U. TORRE, Editor ■ EDMUND L. SICAM, Associate Editor

Orange Whip

1 170g. can NESTLÉ CREAM
3 tbsps. Cointreau
3 tbsps. powdered orange juice
2 cups water
orange slices for garnish

Combine all ingredients except for garnish in a blender and whip for about 2 min. until frothy. Pour over crushed ice in cocktail glasses. Garnish with orange twists. Serves: 4

Watch out for next week's fruity treat!

M2M loses bubblegum flavor

M2M. Not too young to write songs.

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA

M2M recorded their new album, "The Big Room" in Woodstock, New York but shot their music video of "Everything" in Los Angeles. In between trips to the recording studio, Marion Raven and Marit Larsen took their math and history books and notes with them.

Singing career

Balancing school and a singing career can be tough. But Marion concedes that being taken seriously as a musician is tougher. Marion tickles the piano keys and sings while Marit sings and fiddles with the guitars.

"It's important to us for people to see that we sing, we play and that this is what we like to do. Some people think we're too young to write songs. I can understand that. That's good too, because it makes us all the more determined to prove ourselves," Marion enthuses.

While they were recording in New York, Marion and Marit discovered shopping and ice skating in Central Park. "We saw a lot of cute boys walking in the busy, bustling streets," Marion grins, then shares a joke.

Marit and Marion first met in 1990 when Marion was just five years old. Just a few houses apart from each other in Lorenskog, Norway, they shared a common passion for music. They formed a band with their classmates in school and named themselves after their favorite bubblegum, Hubba Bubba. Then they came out in kiddie musical theater productions like "The Sound of Music," "Annie," and "The Wizard of Oz."

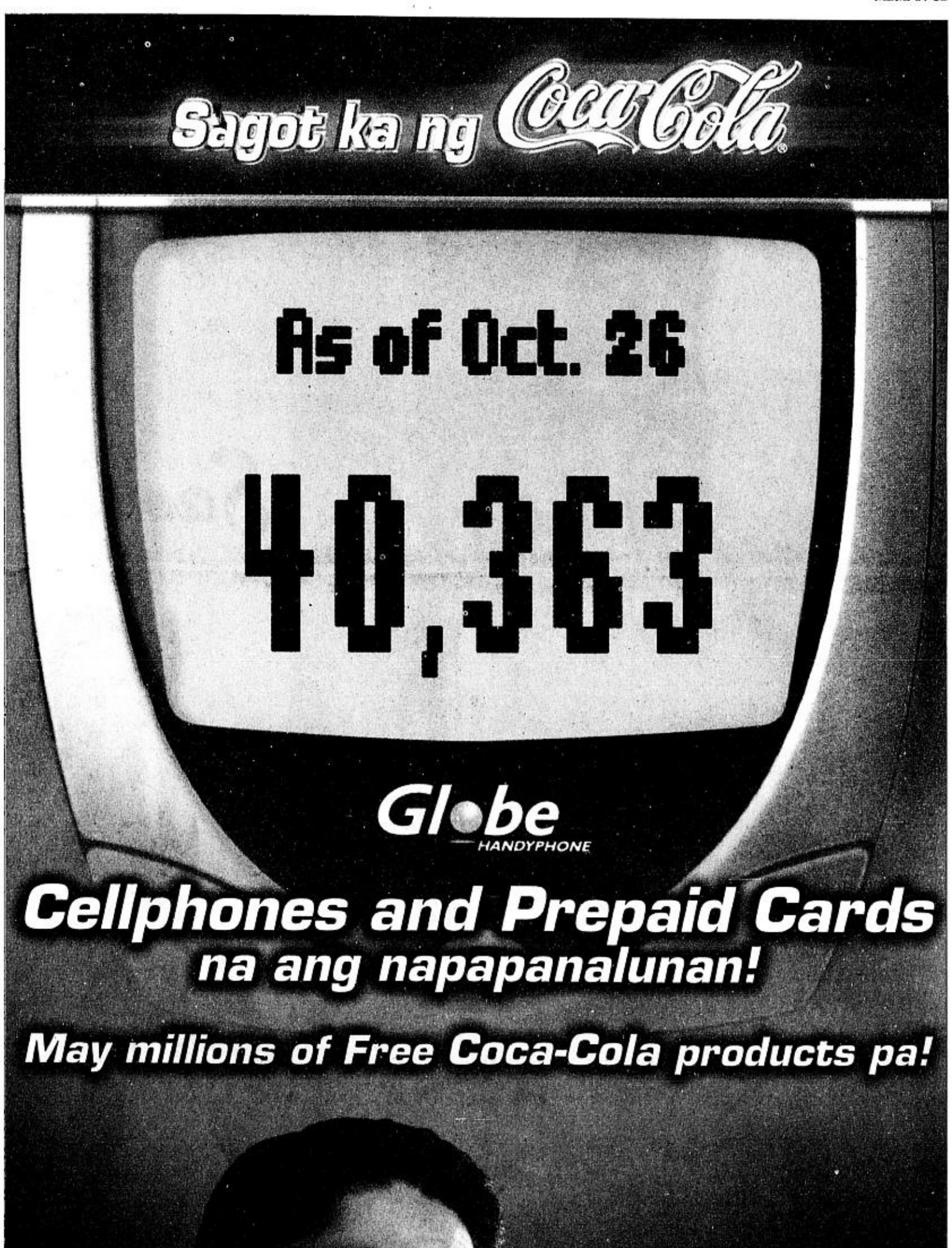
Children's album

"Our official recording debut is a language children's album. We did kid songs that were really funky, not the same old, boring stuff. But we wanted to do songs that were reflective without being too deep," Marion reveals.

The desire to write their own songs pushed Marion and Marit to form their own band. They named themselves M2M because their first names both start with M. They originally wanted to label themselves as M&M but the name already belongs to a candy maker and a rap artist. The chemistry and depth of understanding between them is undeniable. They act like inseparable soul sisters.

"We travel together constantly so when we're at home we try to spend more time with our own families. Still, we call each other up all the time. Some of my friends say I'm beginning to sound and talk like Marit," Marion smiles.

M2M/ P. C2



Edu Manzano creates new TV persona for 'The Weakest Link'

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

"THE WEAKEST Link" has been on the air for only a few weeks, but it's already established its own turf. Some of this can be attributed to its "Survivor"—like sense of "killer" competition, but even more striking is the unique persona that gamemaster Edu Manzano has devised for himself on the show.

Utterly unhappy

In his other television outings, Edu has been generally breezy and happy-go-lucky, the life of the TV party. In "The Weakest Link," however, he is dark, dour, sarcastic—and utterly unhappy with contestants' low scores and earnings, and their lack of killer instinct in cold-bloodedly getting rid of the unproductive members of their team.

It's all a pose, of course, but Edu achieves it with supremely supercilious panache. The severe, testy mien, the tight smirk, the eyebrows darting up to high heavens in fastidious exasperation—what an entertaining act!

The contestants don't agree, of course. They find little humor in Edu's nitpicking insults, his haranguing tone and snide asides. Edu's badgering adds enormously to the pressure they feel as they try to answer the dizzying range of questions that he fires at them in ack-ack fashion.

Deliciously cruel

But Edu is at his best—and therefore, his worst—when he insults the contestants from head to toe. On the show's first telecasts, when its guests were celebrities, he was most deliciously cruel as he spat out stinging mini-critiques on their performance.

"Incredibly bad!," he would sniff. "*Kahiya-hiya!*" "In that round, out of a possible P125,000, you only banked a disgraceful P6,000!"

MANZANO. Wickedly entertaining.

When the show's contestants were made up of show biz reporters, Edu couldn't resist scoffing at their low scores with a bristling "And you're supposed to be journalists?!" Of another batch of celebrity contestants, he wanted to know: "*Sino sa inyo ang lalabas na ubod ng katawatawa ngayong gabi?*" Ouch, that hurt.

Basketball stars

Suprisingly, the team of celebrity contestants that did best of all on "The Weakest Link" was made up of basketball stars. Yes, the supposedly peabrained jocks answered many of the questions hurled at them, and on the first round of their game, they made over P100,000 out of a possible perfect total of P125,000.

Wilting under Edu's barrage of insults, however, they flaked and flubbed and did much more poorly in the succeeding rounds. Still, they had affirmed their astuteness as game-show contestants over other batches of celebrities who appeared on the show, and viewers will never dismiss basketball players as airheads ever again!

Non-celebrity contestants

Recently, "The Weakest Link" started to field non-celebrity contestants, and Edu has softened his salvos. Perhaps he senses that celebrities are used to rolling with the punches, and "ordinary" people have a lower threshold for psychic pain?

In any case, Edu is much kinder now. On the show last Monday, he pulled his punches and sniffed blunted insults only on the level of "*Dito sa* round *na ito, talagang bumaba kayo*" and "Why can't you act to get rid of the weaklings who are holding you back from making more money?"

Diatribes

Later, however, he could no longer control himself and bitched about some of the contestants' really far-out answers ("What does a bride wear on her head?—"Her gown!"—that sort of rattled thing).

But his diatribes were still less vicious than the potshots he took against celebrity contestants who had fumbled badly on past telecasts.

Still, Edu's fastidiously bitchy "spinster schoolmarm" act is wickedly entertaining, and it makes "The Weakest Link" one of the strongest new shows now on the tube, and Edu the best local game-show host we've seen this season.

(If the show reaches its first anniversary, the tables should be turned on Edu, and he should be made the lone contestant on the show's anniversary special. Past celebrity contestants should be invited back to ask really difficult questions and it'll be their turn to bitchily insult him for the wrong answers he gives—tit for tat!)

HOTDOG. Popular and prolific.

ALBUM REVIEW

Hotdog band's songs delight new audience

A tribute from today's bands

BY LEIA TORRE

THE HOTDOG, one of the most popular and prolific musical groups in the early 1980s, has contributed a lot of songs to the local music industry. Most of their songs mirror aspects of Philippine society, while offering a commentary on the things that are happening in the sectors they sing about.

Ideas

What made these songs so popular was their content and the way the ideas in them were expressed. The lyrics are phrased in such a way that your average Filipino listener would find it easy to relate to whatever the songs are declaring. Most of the songs also include pertinent illustrations of things that actually happen in life, making the songs themselves more real.

Today, more than 20 years after the Hotdog released their first album, their songs are still well-remembered by those who were already old enough to appreciate them when they dominated the airwaves. There is a potential new audience however, in the people who were too young to appreciate the Hotdog's music at the time that they were at the height of itspopularity. This audience needs to hear the songs before any appreciation can occur.

Singing groups

Some bands or singing groups have realized this need for "repopularizing" at least some of the Hotdog's songs for the benefit of that younger audience, and also for those people who have been yearning to hear their erstwhile favorite songs again.

The bands responsible for remaking or reviving the songs in the album "Bandang Pinoy, Lasang Hotdog" include the Eraserheads, Barbie's Cradle, Brownbeat All Stars, Color It Red, Chill, Parokya ni Edgar, True Faith, Aquarella, and Ascolta. Cooky Chua, Color It Red's lead vocalist, goes solo in one number. The songs chosen for the album number among the most popular of the Hotdog's compositions.

There is only one song in the album which is sung by the Hotdog themselves. It is "Bandang Pinoy," and it gives the album the first half of its title. The song is the last of the 11 tracks in the album.

Concerned with the plight of musical bands in the Philippines, the song has an upbeat tempo and a catchy melody, making it easy to recall. It states that most bands are composed of talented members, but many of them remain unrecognized and largely unappreciated by Filipino audiences. Few of these bands are thus unable to make a living through their music alone.

Filipino audience

The song also seeks to prod the Filipino audience to make an effort to expose themselves to the kind of music offered by these "Bandang Pinoy."

Lastly, the song is a tribute by the Hotdog to all those bands who nevertheless still keep on composing and performing their songs, in spite of the unecouraging reception offered by the Filipino audience. *(To be concluded)*

M2M . . . (From page C1)

"I would never have done this new album alone. I couldn't have handled it. We're experiencing so many new things so it's cool to have someone who is right there with you. It's really great to be two, to have Marion to depend on," Marit adds.

Maturity and coolness seem to have touched M2M's sensibilities because the bubblegum pop of "Pretty Boy" and "Don't Say You Love Me" disappeared in "The Big Room." It's heavy on acoustic guitars, acoustic drums and a bit of electric guitars, so there's more edge and pop-rock to it.

Formula

Is the formula for a hit song the same, whether it's a pop or pop-rock album? "I think so. To compose a good song, you have to be honest with yourself. You need to write real lyrics that the audience can relate to," Marion shares.

Marion singles out "Wanna Be Where You Are" and "Miss Popular" as her favorites. "Wanna Be Where You Are" is a ballad about a girl being in love but being separated from her man. She likes the song because she remembers an old boyfriend. She broke up with him a year ago because she constantly travels and sustaining a romantic relationship with him was difficult. "It's hard to be in love and not be with the one you love. My work keeps me away from him," Marion sighs.

"Miss Popular" is about the meanest, most popular girl in school. "I think all schools have one. She's pretty, popular and smart, but she's also mean to everybody. This song is about telling that girl that everything will come back to her. She has everything except compassion and kindness," Marion notes.

The M2M girls may be popular, pretty and cool, but they also have enough wisdom to know the things that are important in life.

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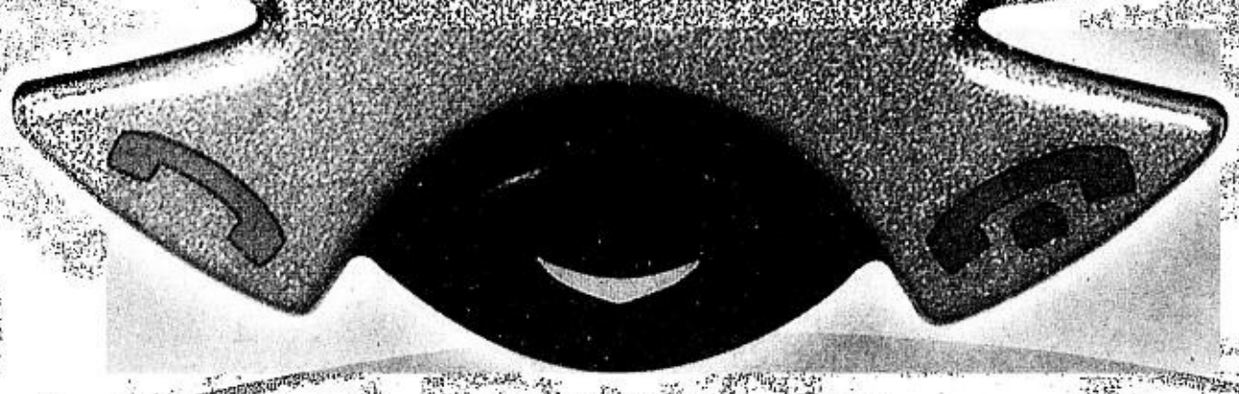

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1. Promo period is from Oct. 14 - Nov. 22, 2001.
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1625, Series of 2001.

Sexy comediennes still hit the spot

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

COMEDIENNES are a peso a dozen, but sexy ones are rare in these parts. That's because comedy, Pinoy style, has caricature or even ugly connotations—as in the sassy query: *"Bakit ka nagpapatawa, e hindi ka naman kalbo?"*

Gargoyles

Yes, local comedians sometimes look like gargoyles, sound like banshees and act like slap-happy whirling dervishes. So, when a goodlooking, sexy woman comes along and declares that what she wants to do most of all is to make audiences laugh, people sigh, "What a waste!"

But it's no waste at all. As lovely American and British comediennes like Goldie Hawn, Marilyn Monroe, Cybil Shepherd and Kay Kendall have proven, looks and laughs aren't as incompatible as some people think.

In fact, it's such a relief to see great-looking women doing comedy because they make us realize that slapstick and physical deformities aren't essential to making us laugh, and that comedy of wit and sophistication is so much more delightful than the physical, insulting and mocking varieties.

On the local show biz scene, comediennes tend to be the Babalina, Dely Atay-atayan, Chichay, Menggay, Chuchi, Ai Ai de las Alas, Nanette Inventor, Elizabeth Ramsey and Tiya Pusit sort of physically-"unique" laugh-provokers. All that some of them have to do is just stand there and wiggle, and people automatically giggle.

Unique niche

Once in a while, however, a comedienne comes around who looks good and even sexy, and she carves a unique niche for herself in local entertainment.

MARTIN. Shouldn't give comedy up entirely.

SANCHEZ. Has always wanted to make people laugh.

Interestingly, the first of this short line of goodlooking comediennes was an American beauty, Joan Page, who appeared in Sampaguita Pictures' romantic-comedy productions in the '50s.

She was followed by Maria Theresa Carlson, whose signature comic shtick was the contrast between her sexy looks and her *mali-mali* way with Tagalog dialogue.

Then came the goodlooking TV comediennes—Cherie Gil, Mitch Valdes, Tessie Tomas, etc. They were followed by Nova Villa, Gigi Posadas, Cynthia Patag, Fe delos Reyes and Pinky Marquez.

But the sexiest comedienne of them all was Carmi Martin. Actually, she started out as a "seriously sexy" starlet, and in fact starred in a number of provocative productions.

Lighter roles

Somewhere along the way, however, she started doing lighter roles, and before anyone knew it, she was starring in sitcoms, and even had her own weekly comedy-musical variety TV show with Roderick Paulate.

These days, however, Carmi hasn't been doing as much comedy, and her occasional performances have been toned-down and mature. This is a pity, since we feel that she still has a lot to give in the comedy department. If she no longer wants to go all that sexy, fine—but she shouldn't give comedy up entirely.

Of late, another comedienne has been making a name for herself. She's Marissa Sanchez, and despite her plumpness, some people find her sort of sexy, too.

Looker

But the young comedienne who's following most closely in Carmi's sexy footsteps is Giselle Sanchez. Despite her being a looker as a teenager, complete with peaches and cream complexion and all, Giselle knew early on that what she wanted to do most of all was to make people laugh.

That's why, when she was still in her early teens, she was already taking comedy workshops. When she felt she was ready, she started performing in clubs and on TV.

She really came into her own when she gave her comic performances a mock-sultry, sexy oomph. Her combination of bimbo daftness and slinky sexiness makes her comic persona popular with the green-joke, late-night crowd.

Her one-person, stand-up shows are successful, as are her acts with other comics, and even bigger things are in store for her next year.

DE LEON. Wants to improve his hosting skills.

SWITCHING CHANNELS

'Millionaire' celebrates first anniversary Nov. 13

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

NOTHING beats the original according to Viva Television, whose "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire" celebrates its first anniversary on Nov. 13. The game show is seen on IBC-13 Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays at 8:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 8 p.m.

With "WW2BAM's" success, the other TV channels have come up with their own offerings. The glut of game shows has challenged host Christopher de Leon to do even better on the second year of his show. Although Boyet has proven himself to be a competent host, he feels that he can still improve on his hosting skills. He can still speed things up when he interacts with contestants.

How does he feel about the entry of Edu Manzano in another Viva game show, "The Weakest Link"? Boyet doesn't feel threatened because Edu's game show is a lot different from his. Even the personalities they project are diametrically opposed to each other.

Edu needs to be formal and even gruff to project the tension required of his show. Boyet, on the other hand, is more relaxed and amiable, as didctated by the format of his program.

Would he like to do "WW2BAM" for another 10 years? "Why not?" says Boyet with a smile that says he's not kidding.

To commemorate the first year of the show, the contestants on Nov. 13 have been chosen from callers whose birthday falls on the same date. We were told that Viva got many calls for the anniversary special from people who met the qualifications.

Questions for 'Band of Brothers' Episode 4

1. Carwood Lipton was promoted to_____in this episode. a. First Officer b. Lieutenant c. First Sergeant d. Battalion Commander

2. The soldier nicknamed Bull was missing after an attack by the Germans. Who is he? a. Winters b. Randelman c. Lipton d. Nixon

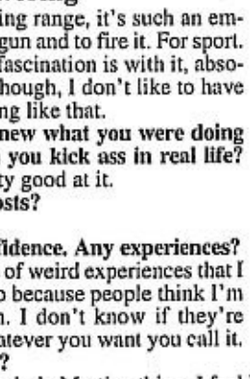
3. Operation Market-Garden is said to be an even bigger operation than Normandy. True or False? a. True b. False.

Send entries to: "Switching Channels-Band of Brothers" Contest, P. O. Box 512 Greenhills Post Office, San Juan Metro Manila 1502

All entries must be postmarked on or before Nov. 17. Winners will be announced on Nov. 24.

Natasha Henstridge is one tough cookie

BY GAIL MURPHY



HENSTRIDGE. Burning urge to play an action hero.

NATASHA Henstridge, the actress best known as the seductive alien with the desperate desire to mate and kill—in that order—in "Species," is one tough cookie. She knows how to fight, and she's had a burning urge to reverse Hollywood's gender roles and play an action hero, perhaps because several of her early roles required her to appear naked as often as possible.

Sci-fi shocker

She gets her wish with John Carpenter's sci-fi shocker "Ghosts of Mars," in which she plays an ass-kicking cop in outer space. "I get to play the guy's role," she says. "No miniskirt and no high heels." Q & A:

Was it fun to go punch for punch with the guys in "Ghosts of Mars?"

It's entirely why I took this role! [Laughs] You know, I've been in action movies before and I was dragged around in high heels and miniskirts and I thought, "Oh, I wish I had the guy's role in this movie. It would be such fun." And that's what this movie is about. I definitely have what's typically a man's role.

How did you feel about firing a gun?

I've done a lot of firing and I've been to the range a few times and I've done films where I've had to use guns. I have a very love-hate relationship with guns. Living in the Wild West out here in Los Angeles, where everybody's carrying them, it's scary and there's uneasiness about that. But I understand.

Empowering

When I go to the shooting range, it's such an empowering feeling to hold a gun and to fire it. For sport. I can understand what the fascination is with it, absolutely. It's a lot of fun. Although, I don't like to have one in my home, or anything like that.

You looked like you knew what you were doing in those fight scenes. Can you kick ass in real life?

Yeah, I think I am pretty good at it.

Do you believe in ghosts?

Yes, I do.

You say that with confidence. Any experiences?

Yeah, I've had a couple of weird experiences that I try to not get too much into because people think I'm crazy. It's hard to explain. I don't know if they're ghosts or a presence or whatever you want you call it.

What about Martians?

I don't know about the whole Martian thing. I feel like we're such a small planet in a little galaxy, so why not? Maybe there is another dimension of some sort. And then, all the sightings that you hear about, can everybody be fabricating this all the time?

What was your initial impression of Ice Cube?

I thought he was going to be tough and mean. And the first couple of days, I even said, "He *is* tough and mean." [Laughs] And then we got past that. A couple of days in, I was like, "Oh, my God, how am I going to do this movie with him?" He is intimidating; when you first meet him, he's so super-straight and he doesn't crack too many smiles and he's got a slyness about him.

Teddy bear

And then you meet him and he's like a sweetheart, a teddy bear. He's got this kind of personality about him, he's really cute. Cute—he'd hate me for saying that! Oh, my God, he's going to kill me. [Laughs]

Was there a pivotal point in your career where things could have gone a different way?

I would say after "Species," when I got such a great opportunity. I had a lot of offers to do, a lot of really great work with a lot of very interesting people, and I really wasn't ready for it. In retrospect, had I been a little more mature and smarter, I probably would have taken the opportunity and used it a more wisely, I think.

Julia Clarete's sad story has a happy ending

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

THEY say that the teen years are the most difficult in a person's life, a fact that has been used to power the conflicts in many movies and TV series. Star Cinema's "Trip" deals with the growing-up years but the young stars in the movie—Jericho Rosales, Kristine Hermosa, Marvin Agustin, John Prats, Heart Evagelista, Paolo Contis, Onemig Bondoc, Desiree del Valle and Julia Clarete—don't undergo much suffering in the storyline. After all, this is a feel-good movie that deals with relatively uncomplicated issues that teeners grapple with.

Trying childhood

Not so for 22-year-old Julia who, in real life, went through a trying childhood. Her parents split up when she was in Grade 1. She grew up with her mom in Laguna and learned to be an independent woman. The family was not well off so they were always having financial problems.

At age 15, Julia auditioned for "Ang TV" and managed to pass the auditions. This led to several TV assignments and even a movie appearance with Gary V in "Hataw Na" in 1994. She's also had theater experience so Julia's been able to tackle difficult roles including that of a contravida in "Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka." She's also a regular in educational shows like "Pamana" and "Epol."

Betrayal

Recently, Julia went through another trying time in her life. This time, it had to do with a person she trusted with her money. Before she knew it, this person had run off with more than P200,000, an amount that was supposed to pay for a car that she had bought. She found out later that the monthly installment she was forking over was not going to the seller of the car. She got the shock of her life when a sheriff went to ABS-CBN to confiscate her vehicle for non-payment.

Julia has already forgiven this person for the misdeed but she felt frustrated that the money she had worked for so hard would just be embezzled. The experience also taught her not to be too trusting.

The story, however, has a happy ending. No, she didn't get her money back. When Julia joined Kris Aquino's "Game Ka Na Ba," she won P 200,000, enough to serve as down payment for a car. At the same, she also won a showcase for her mom, something that made her shed copious tears on the air. Considering Julia's background, it was understandable why she was very emotional.

Her sad experiences are things Julia can use in his other interest, singing. They say that when a singer goes through a lot of suffering, she becomes more believable when she sings about bad times.

Joni James fan

Julia, who already has an album under Dyna, will be performing this month at the Hyatt's Kalesa Bar, where many outstanding singers have started out. For a young singer, many of her favorites are from another generation. For instance, she loves the songs of Joni James, a singer who became famous in the '50s and '60s. She also likes torch songs like those sung by Linda Ronstadt.

CLARETE. An emotional TV appearance.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

The making of a Filipino-American film

BY NOELANI TORRE

"IN Spring 2000, Filipino-Americans heralded a movie they could call their own," says the blurb on the cover of the book "The Debut: The Making of a Filipino American Film." That movie was—you guessed it—"The Debut," a film by Filipino-Americans.

Packed house

Directed by Gene Cajayon and written by Cajayon and John Manal Castro, "The Debut" premiered to a packed house at the 15th Annual Visual Communications Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film and Video Festival. It went on to make a splash in other film festivals and drew huge crowds whenever it went, as people kept coming back to view it again—and this time with family and friends in tow.

EDDIE Garcia plays the Fil-Am protagonist's grandfather in "The Debut."

"The Debut" won the award for Best Narrative Feature Film at the San Diego Asian Film Festival and the Audience Award for Best Feature Film at the Hawaii International Film Festival, topping 90 other films including Ang Lee's "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon." Though the film has its critics, "The Debut" is now regarded as a Filipino American phenomenon.

Why? What makes this movie so special? "What sets "The Debut" apart from other works is its sheer scope and budget," writes Dawn Bohulano Mabalon in her essay on the film's making. "While it isn't the first Filipino-American feature film, it is certainly the most hyped, hotly anticipated, expansive and polished production the community has ever seen."

Book

For those of us who haven't had the chance to see the film but are wanting to know what it is all about—and how it all came about—the folks behind the movie have come up with a book published by Tulitos Press (Filipino American Literature and Culture, Chicago).

This book contains the screenplay by Cajayon and Castro—including scenes that didn't make it to the final cut,—eight pages of full-color shots from the film, the timeline of the film's production, cast and crew bios, and an incisive and in-depth account of the film's making by critic and historian Mabalon.

All these make for quite interesting reading as we learn of the many troubles that the filmmakers encountered in making the movie. We find out how hard it is to find support for a film by a cultural minority and, what's more, starring a predominantly non-white cast.

Thus, the filmmakers decided to go independent, instead of working with an established film studio.

Cajayon and Castro encountered many other difficulties, from the script which went through almost two dozen re-writes, to the mad scramble for the funding needed to shoot the movie.

Desperate

They laugh about it now that things are going well with their movie but they must have been pretty desperate before. It is to their credit that they still managed to give the film their very best.

"The Debut" is the story of Ben Mercado, a second-generation Filipino-American teenager. He is a talented cartoonist who is resolved to continue his studies in Cal Arts despite his father Roland's wish that he enter UCLA and proceed to medical school.

"White-washed" and secretly ashamed of his working-class Filipino-American family, his long-simmering conflict with his father threatens to blow up on his sister Rose's debut, an event that the family has been planning for quite some time.

Ben's identity crisis is resolved in the space of that momentuous evening as he discovers his heritage, sees his father in a new and clearer light, and finds new love in Annabelle, a lovely young Pinay.

By the time the party is over, Ben has finally come to grips with himself and his identity as a Filipino American. *(To be concluded)*

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STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

REMEMBER the saying "You can take the man out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the man?" Some things do stay with a person forever!

Just like with us, the AFFAP ladies, officers and board members of the Association of Former Flight Attendants of Philippine Airlines, who recently had an animated lunch at Cork, a wine cellar and grill outlet at Rockwell, Makati owned by fellow ex-flight attendant Tita Meneses-Trillo.

We may have retired our wings as in-flight crew of PAL, but no way are we going to lose our joy of flying. There *is* life after PAL and we are proving this to our flymates who are still hip-hopping across the Philippine Islands and continents all over the world.

Homecoming

After some casual talk during lunch, we got down to business and discussed details of our forthcoming Grand Global Homecoming and Benefit Ball come Jan. 5, 2001 at the Grand Ballroom of The Manila Hotel. The ultimate beneficiaries will be our less fortunate members.

We have chosen as our pilot project the establishment of a halfway house to be called "Landing Field," hopefully to be located in Los Baños, Laguna.

Highlights of the affair include a video presentation of the countries the AFFAP members have flown in and out of, and a fashion parade of flight uniforms, some of them done by famous Philippine couturiers Ramon Valera, Chito Antonio and Pitoy Moreno, and French haute couture designers Pierre Cardin, Capucci and Renato Ballestra. The AFFAP members are considering donating the complete sets of selected uniforms to an appropriate venue, like the airport, to be showcased there.

Family women

You see enduring friendship when you see our group. And faces light up some more when we talk about our families. Avelyn Gimenez-Jahns, married to a German, is our president. Her life is a fairytale come true in a way, since she's had homes in faraway places like Switzerland, Portugal and Bangkok, and neighbors like Cristina Onassis (in Paraguay). But she is proudest of her two lovely children, a boy and a girl.

Greta Soriano-Lauron, our vice president, is a curvaceous grandmother who is our bet for winning a ballroom competition anytime. Married to a 747-400 pilot who flew for 35 years, she has three kids, all married. A daughter is also a flight attendant.

Cristy Romero-Altura, one of the founders and our first president at AFFAP, flew for 26 years and was international flight purser before she left PAL 10 years ago. A businesswoman, she takes special care of her two boutiques at Glorietta, named after her kids: Criselda's (21) and Adam's (16).

Tita Meneses-Trillo, board member and my "*barkada*" since we were 18, takes pride in her multi-faceted identity, attributing to her training as flight attendant the discipline required to succeed in business. Her husband is businessman and philanthropist Tony Trillo. They have five children.

Studio

And I'm a commercial photographer servicing corporate accounts requiring annual reports, industrial and product set-ups, publicity shots, food photography, glamour and fashion. My studio also offers summer photo workshops.

I am raising four kids: Julia, 19, a Multi-Media Art student at the College of St. Benilde; Imogen Kate, 17, a junior high at JMD-PWU Taft; Amanda, 10, at St. Scholastica's College and Kertesz Leon, 4, Child Learning Center.

I am also busy raising funds for the SSPE Children Care Foundation (its main project is to control SSPE by nationwide immunization against measles; we are looking for nationwide tie-ups and donors).

Chari La'O-Bagatsing's serene looks belie the rigors of the campaigns she has undergone for her successful three-termer former congressman husband, Amado. She's also a AFFAP board member, and they have a daughter.

Edict

Wife of present Parañaque Congressman Ed Zialcita, Claudine de Castro-Zialcita made history sometime ago by refusing to adhere to PAL's edict that married stewardesses would be retired when they started having children. She won the case and stayed on with PAL until she retired. She and her husband have four children.

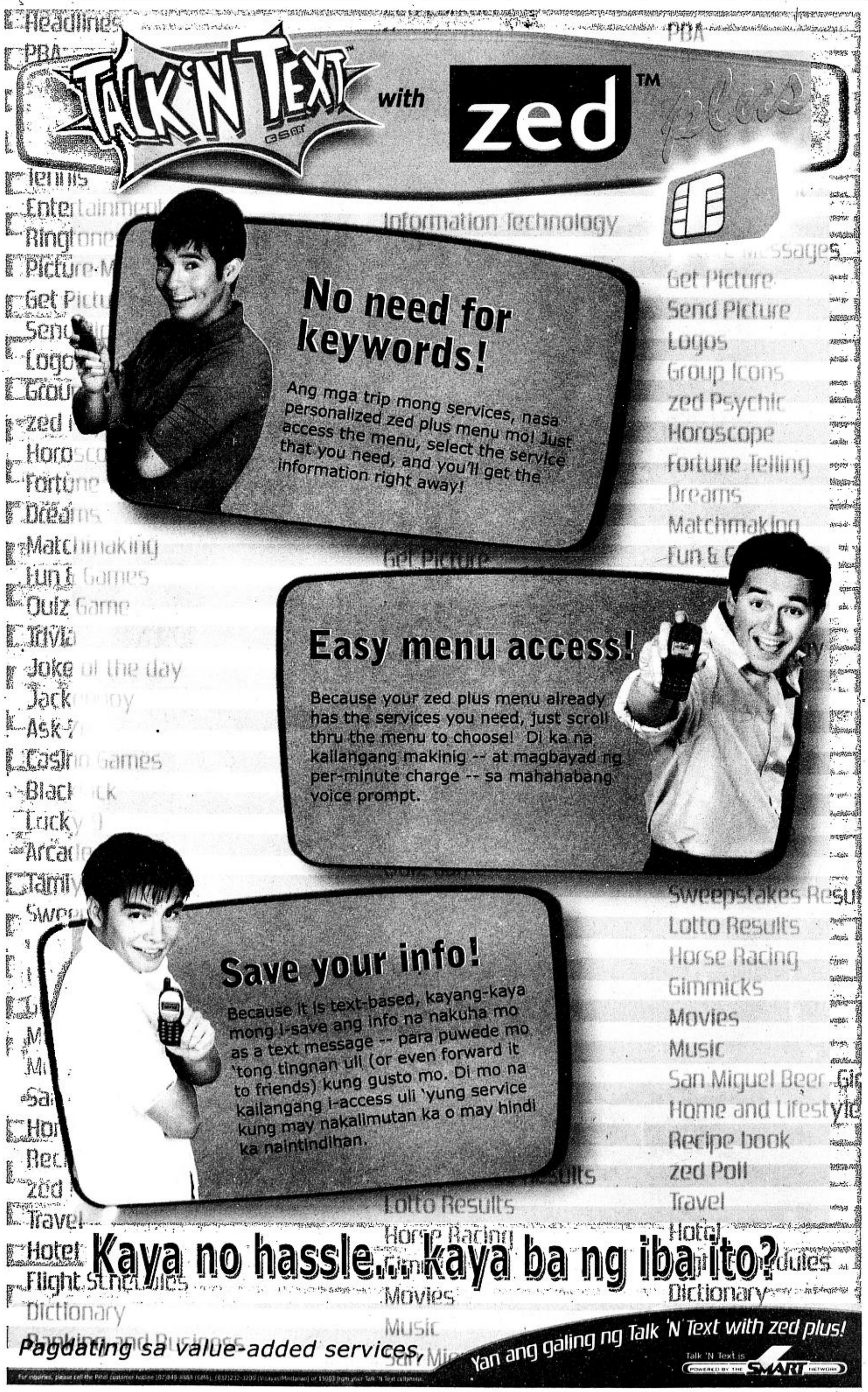
And Nena Jones just recently stopped flying, and busies herself with her businesses and playing grandma to her first grandchild. Other board members: Marilyn Cabarrus, wife of industrialist Jesus, and Monette de Villa, wife of former Philippine presidential aspirant Renato de Villa. (Monette is fighting breast cancer, and looks very pretty with her "bandana hairdo" and dangling earrings).

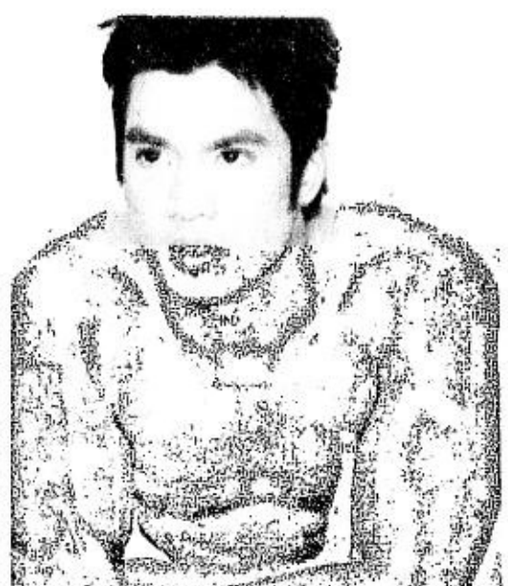
THE AFFAP LADIES. From left, the author, Cristy Altura, Nena Jones, Greta Lauron, Avelyn Jahns, Claudine Zialcita, Charl Bagatsing and Tita Trillo.

THE AUTHOR, right, with her children, Julia, Imogen Kate, Amanda and Kertesz Leon.

Friendships and families—there is just no taking those out of us. Just like flying!

E-mail Mandy Navasero: mn_photocom@i-manila.com.ph





OCAMPO. Exhausting schedule.

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Diether Ocampo, fit and focused

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA AND RICKY T. GALLARDO

AS far as Joyce Jimenez is concerned, Diether Ocampo is the fittest male celebrity in tinseltown. Jimenez is not just being nice since Ocampo is her latest leading man, in "Ano Bang Meron Ka?".

"I see him in the gym very often, and it's very obvious that working out is a serious matter for Diet," she says, adding that he has inspired her to work out more religiously than ever.

We caught up with Ocampo Tuesday night (before he flew to the States for a series of shows with the Hunks), and he told us that he has no choice but to stay fit, given the exhausting schedule he has at the moment.

"We're in a business that makes its own rules as far as schedules are concerned, and it can really drive you crazy. That's why it's important to be fit, to work out regularly, to eat right and to rest well when time permits.

"Besides, we're in a business where outward appearance is worshipped more than talent and personality, which is sad when you think about it, so I have no choice but to keep up with the pace," he explains.

'Philharmonic in Jeans'

Now on its fourth year, "Philharmonic in Jeans" by Guess Jeans and the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra plans to fuse pop and classical music with fashion. All the shows (starting on Nov 15 at the Glorietta Activity Center) will be free.

This year, the string of free mall concerts, billed as "Band Hits in Concert" features Anna Fegi, Luke Mijares (South Border), Joey Generoso (Side A), Lani Misalucha, Jett Pangan and Pido (Pido and Take 1) as guest performers.

"This year we will do band hits—music from Queens, Beatles and Aerosmith. We want to attract young people to watch us," conductor Gerard Salonga says.

"It should be a lot of fun. We're focusing on the music of real bands, not boy bands," Anna Fegi notes.

"It's always interesting to merge styles. I'm excited to rehearse," Jett Pangan grins.

Cyril Lorenzana directs 'Kamo'

Cyril Lorenzana graduated from Ateneo de Davao University with a degree in management but pursued his passion for directing and storytelling and took a two-year course in motion pictures in UCLA.

We previewed his second film, "Kamo" last week and liked the language and visuals of the film. He can create low-budget films with striking visuals like Yam Laranas and Eric Matti.

DIETHER/p.C7

SALONGA. Conducts the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra at Glorietta on Nov. 15.

Regine interprets songs from the movies

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

WHEN Regine Velasquez was initially approached to do a concert of songs from the movies, she hesitated. She was worried there wouldn't be enough songs for an entire performance. But when she looked at the list of possible titles, she was astonished at the amount of material that was available.

So, the Songbird launches a series of concerts on the movies on Nov. 9 at the Music Museum. She will be at the same venue on Nov. 10, 16, and 17. She moves over to Onstage, Greenbelt on Nov. 23 for the rest of the series. Other shows are on Nov. 24, 30, Dec. 1, 7, 8, 15, and 16. Musical direction is by Raul Mitra.

Regine was immediately teased by entertainment writers on her choice of musical directors (Raul is married to sister Cacai). She defended her choice, saying Raul is a competent musical artist, someone she has worked with on past projects, including albums and movies.

She did admit that she wanted to give her brother-in-law a break and she was in the best position to do that for him. Was it the same for Cacai, who's with her on GMA's "SOP"? In her sister's case, Regine said Cacai got into the show ahead of her.

Recently, Regine embarked on another show biz-related project: She produced an album featuring Gabby Eigenmann, who's better known as an actor. She said she wanted to spread her wings and do other things besides singing, the field in which she started. We kidded her, half seriously, that she should try stand-up comedy, that is, without musical numbers.

Jokes

She felt challenged by the idea but wondered whether people would laugh at her jokes. We countered that she made people crack up with her adlibs during her musical spiels in her concerts. She said she was funnier when she was not trying to be funny. In the case of concerts, she found it easy to kid her audience with her deadpan delivery.

We asked her if she felt pressured by the successes of her last three movies with Aga Muhlach and Robin Padilla, which were big hits. She answered in the affirmative but she said that, when she is in front of the camera, the idea never enters her mind.

We complimented her about her physical appearance—she looked quite fit. Then she told us that there was a time when they were doing her movie with Robin Padilla that shooting had to grind to a halt because of her weight problem. Vic del Rosario told her that she had to lose weight before they could resume shooting.

Excess weight

So swallowing her pride, Regine buckled down to shedding excess poundage and, with the help of a sensible diet, diet pills, she was down to her fighting weight in two weeks' time. Dieting is really a chore for Regine, who feels deprived when she needs to give up her favorite food. She explained that, after a hard day on TV or before the movie camera, she wants to reward herself with lots of food. So, when she had to go on a diet, she felt like she was being punished.

One thing about Regine: She 's very open about discussing topics that an artist ordinarily would not dwell on. We have yet to talk to a show biz personality discussing his or her weight problem in such detail.

That's probably what endears Regine to her fans. She's someone who is on top of a pedestal for fans to worship, but a friend whom they can relate to. The same informality shows in her concerts, where Regine is not a diva to be adored but just a simple person one can talk to.

VELASQUEZ. Spreading her wings.

Diether Ocampo . . .

(From page C6)

Working as a production assistant for Apogee Productions in Los Angeles gave him hands-on experience that has enabled him to produce, write and direct his own films here in Manila.

"Kamo" is the story of a talented con man, Beneci (Raymond Bagatsing), trapped by a big crime lord, Big Jimmy (Dido Dela Paz) into a deal. Beneci designs a simple yet intelligent scam involving gasoline to pay Big Jimmy off. A twist at the end of the story seems incredible, though it was well-planted.

MTV Fashionista's Best Model Search

Ten male and 10 female candidates of the MTV Fashionista's Best Model Search will visit Fridays and Outback in Alabang Town Center and Hard Rock Cafe and Fridays in Makati on Nov. 9. Finals night will be on Nov. 13 at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio.

During the finals night, Canon will set up a Digital Photo Station where the candidates, press people and guests can have their photos taken. The candidates can see their photos after 60 seconds and if they don't like the image, they can delete the stored image and replace it with a new one.

Sylvia La Torre steals the show

She came, she sang, she conquered Manila's high society crowd. Sylvia La Torre brought the house down when she performed at the high-profile Pinoy pop culture concert last weekend at the Fort in Makati City.

The event was the highlight of the mega-launch of the book "Pinoy Pop Culture," a collaboration of literary and theater empress Gilda Cordero-Fernando, art director Manny Chaves and fashion retail giant Ben Chan.

La Torre has been given titles such as the eternal diva and divinissima, and she lived up to each as she swept us all with her rendition of "Waray-Waray." La Torre earned thunderous applause and sustained ovations.

La Torre effortlessly stole the show from other performers like Lourd de Veyra and his Radio Active Sago band, Anna Fegi, Ate Gay and the Powerdance guys. The lung-power-laden Aegis duo also made their mark with their pitch-perfect high notes when they sang "Basang-Basa sa Ulan" and "Luha," with talent certainly more impressive than the screechy voices of our more popular divas.

(The book "Pinoy Pop Culture," with more than a hundred pages of full-color photo icons, is now available at all Bench outlets.)

Vilma, Roeder, and Armida celebrate birthdays

Perfectionists, passionate, pragmatic and perceptive. These are the usual traits that people associate with those born under the Zodiac sign of Scorpio. This weekend, we greet three who are celebrating their birthdays: Vilma Santos (today), Roeder and Tita Midz (tomorrow).

Batangas politics has already taken Vilma Santos away from the limelight. Her show biz career has had to give way to her being mom to sons Luis and Ryan and as wife to Senator Ralph. The highly-acclaimed actress has vowed to do one good project a year, but it seems that we won't see a Vilma Santos movie until next summer. Santos started shooting for a Chito Roño movie for Star Cinema but filming was put to a halt for yet undisclosed reasons.

The theater bug has hit former pop-singer Roeder so hard that he now considers the stage his universe. Fresh from the Singaporean production of "Chang & Eng," Roeder is now a resident actor-teacher with Tanghalang Pilipino,. We saw him recently in the opera "Carmen" and we learned from him that there are plans to bring "Chang & Eng" to Malaysia, Hong Kong and maybe Manila.

After realizing that a majority of the Makati voters would prefer her to stay in show biz, Armida Siguion-Reyna is bent on making a mark on the TV drama front. She is, as usual, a scheming and feisty character who makes life miserable for Judy Ann Santos in the daily evening soap "Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka." Tita Midz says that she also plans to go back to movie production.

To Vilma, Roeder and Tita Midz, bountiful birthday blessings!

RN58163

Wranco gangs up on ghetto gear

THE SPIRIT of rap and the attitude of gangsta alive, well and—dare we say it—wearing a friendlier vibe in the latest collection from Wranco, one of the most fashion-forward, enduring and dependable local labels in the denim scene. Taking inspiration from what's in and happening now with teenagers, Wranco encourages denim fans to get in the puffy mood with its low-slung, elephant-cut dark denims in floor-sweeping lengths. For men, they're loose from the waist down—just spacious enough to stay in the hip and show your designer boxes. For women, they're hipsters that get wider from the knee as it goes to the hem.

What gives this new denim style from Wranco extra hipness is its utilitarian details like the multi-pocket features whose sizes are as exaggerated as the jeans themselves. Another edgy feature is the topstitching, either for pockets or used to draw an entire Union Jack flag at the back. Topstitching is also a big issue in the new denim skirts and hot pants who are either in stone washed versions, strong indigos or cotton khakis. The embroidered logo is also a detail to watch out for this season.

For those whose attitude jives with another groove, the choice to go for this season is dark and unwashed and just amply slim. They're modern and flanky with a hard-edged appeal. They go with a simple top and would look best paired with a denim jacket for men and women in the same color and texture.

Speaking of tops, color is a big, bold complement to the season's darker denim shades, especially colors that are extremely sexy and reveal the curves are perfect for either the elephant-cut or straight and slim silhouettes.

The basic white tees, however, are still the forever-in choice. For men, to complement the ghetto jeans are oversized shirts. For men and women, the basic sleeveless tanks provide a more daring option. Perfect for strolls in the park, the mall, or even a night out—all one has to do is to dress the look up with accessories or the perfect pair of shoes. With the onset of a lot of designers still at it with denim, the fabric has never been this versatile.

What separates Wranco from other local names in the denim market is the quality of its fabrics which are largely imported, assuring the wide variety of denim textures, weight and look.

Modeled this season by Wranco's favorite endorsers, hot sexy actress Assunta De Rossi and hunky actor Jake Roxas, the new collection is indeed given a new dimension by the two's personalities. The sexiness of dark denim is perfect match to Assunta's new daring image; and the oversized, hip hop jeans fit Jake's devil-may-care attitude. Ultimately, however, whoever wears Wranco should bring their own brand of personality to the denimwear.

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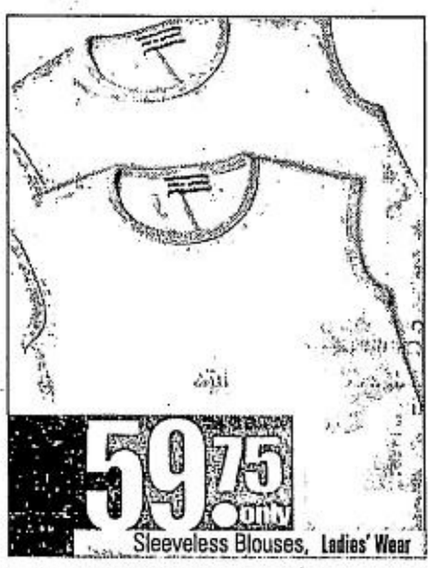
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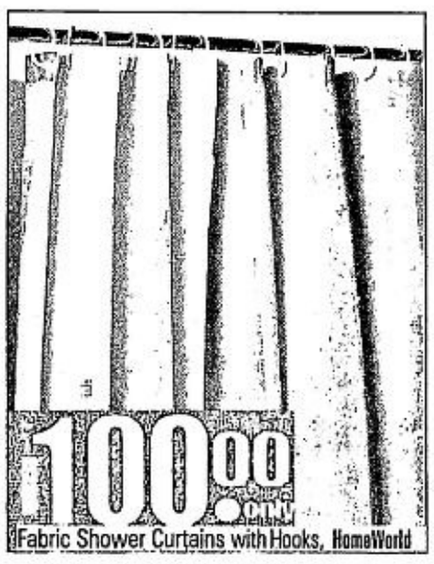
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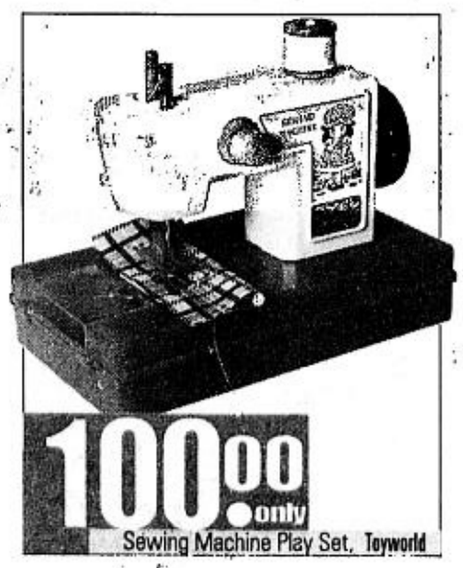
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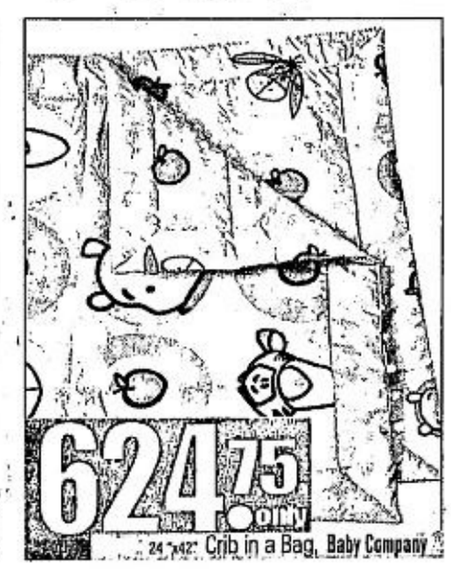
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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2001

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER D2

SaturdaySPECIAL

Kevin Kline continues to act onstage between film projects

Until 1982, he kept turning down movie offers

BY DAVID GERMAIN

TORONTO—Kevin Kline is that rarity among American actors: A classically trained artist who so loves live performance it's a wonder he comes off stage long enough to make a film.

Yet for almost two decades, he's glided effortlessly between the theater and movies, way-out comedy and heavyweight drama, building a body of live and filmed work that would be the envy of peers in more theater-minded Britain.

Latecomer

A latecomer to film, Kline took the British route, spending years on stage in classics by Shakespeare, Chekhov and Christopher Marlowe. He turned down movie offers before debuting on film in his mid-30s with "Sophie's Choice" in 1982.

Until then, he felt no reason to trade live audiences for film. Julliard trained, a founding member of John Houseman's The Acting Company and a Broadway star with two Tonys, Kline had his choice of theater parts meatier than anything Hollywood could offer.

"A lot of great roles in a lot of great plays," Kline, 54, said at last month's Toronto International Film Festival, where his new movie "Life as a House" played. "So when I was offered silly roles in silly movies, I wasn't interested. I was a snob very early."

Wider recognition

A year after "Sophie's Choice," Kline gained wider recognition with "The Big Chill," but he made only half a dozen other films through the 1980s. He played some lighter characters on film, a reprisal of his Tony-winning role in "The Pirates of Penzance" among them.

KLINE. Over-the-top performances.

Still sticking largely to theater or dramatic films such as "Cry Freedom," Kline remained in that British tradition of the actor as AC-TOR. Then came his eye-popping turn in a silly role in a blissfully silly movie, "A Fish Called Wanda."

KEVIN/P. D2

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Cesar Montano has the best of both worlds

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

CESAR Montano has stopped taping for his sitcom with Maricel Soriano, but he isn't worried. In fact, the termination of his show has given him more time for his other projects, which eat up so much of his days—and nights—that he feels he doesn't have enough time left over for his wife Sunshine and their brand-new baby.

Award

On top of his hectic schedule as an actor, Cesar has launched a side-career as a recording artist, and he's even won an award in the process. This isn't exactly beginner's luck because Cesar has been singing for years, but this *is* the first time that he's cut an entire album.

Still, it's as a movie artist that Cesar has made his major mark. He's getting to do such prestigious film projects now that it's easy to forget that he started out at the bottom of the heap, as a bit player with only a few lines to deliver.

And, when he got his first big break, it was in (blush) a sexy fantasy flick in which he played a wooden statue that came randily to life!

In terms of popularity, what did it for Cesar was when he decided to make action films, where the bigger acting bucks and audiences are.

At first, he had a hard time making a go of his new specialization, until Robin Padilla suddenly

MONTANO. New specialization.

had to take a vacation behind bars to serve a long jail sentence. Since Cesar was playing "tough-*pilyo*" characters similar to Robin's "bad boy" image, producers tapped Cesar to play some of the roles that they had earmarked for Robin.

Bankability

Those films clicked with action film fans and gave Cesar high visibility and enviable bankability. Instead of resting on his millions, however, he

CESAR/ P. D3

Kevin Kline . . . (From page D1)

One of the rare comedic characters acknowledged by Academy Award voters, the nastily demented role earned Kline a supporting-acting Oscar and opened the door for his 1990s comedy successes in "Dave" and "In and Out."

"I hadn't done a purely comic role in a movie. I'd certainly done them on stage," Kline said. "But movie people maybe went, `Oh, we thought he was that really self-important, serious AC-TOR type. But look, he's got a sense of humor. Let's give him an Oscar.'"

Since then, it's been anything goes for Kline. He's done action comedy with "Wild Wild West;" cinematic Shakespeare as Bottom in "A Midsummer Night's Dream;" weighty drama with "The Ice Storm;" romance with "French Kiss;" more madcap comedy in "Fierce Creatures," reuniting cast members from "A Fish Called Wanda."

He did "Hamlet" on stage and directed and starred in a television version for PBS.

Tremendous actor

"Kevin Kline is a tremendous actor in a very old-fashioned kind of way," said "Life as a House" co-star Kristin Scott Thomas. "He makes me think of Laurence Olivier and Alec Guinness. Actors like James Mason, quietly brilliant, not showoffs. Even though Kevin does these incredibly over-the-top performances, he can always come back down to something more close to the bone."

This year, Kline and wife Phoebe Cates, with their son and daughter, co-starred as a family unit in the ensemble drama "The Anniversary Party," written and directed by Alan Cumming and Cates' longtime pal Jennifer Jason Leigh.

Fresh off an acclaimed performance in Chekhov's "The Seagull" in New York last summer, Kline stars as a dying architect trying to reconnect with his neglected family in "Life as a House."

He enlists relatives and friends in a metaphorical act of redemption: Tearing down the hovel he lives in and building a dream home.

For all his training as an actor, Kline had plenty to learn for "Life as a House," namely, demolition and construction.

"I was Mr. Call Somebody. If something was broken, I knew whom to call," Kline said. "Now, I can actually build a wing to my house if I had to. I wouldn't live there, but I could make it stand up."

Director Irwin Winkler said Kline was a fast study with power tools. In one scene, Kline's character hacks up an armoire to create a private bathroom for his surly son, played by Hayden Christensen(Anakin Skywalker in the next two "Star Wars" flicks).

Quick learner

"I didn't have a big budget for a lot of different armoires. I think I only had two armoires, so we had to get it right," Winkler said. "But Kevin was a very quick learner. I said to him, `If this picture doesn't work, we'll both get jobs in the construction industry.'"

Actually, Kline's next gig is "The Palace Thief," about the relationship between a prep-school teacher and a student over the course of decades. The film is due out next year.

Kline considered directing "The Palace Thief" but did not have time once he signed on for "Life as a House." He's hunting other projects for his feature-film directing debut.

For the long haul, Kline is looking ahead to the time he'll tackle the role Shakespearean actors covet late in their careers.

"That's the old cliche, playing `King Lear.' But yeah, yeah," Kline said. "The English actors, they would all play Lear in their '40s. The idea was you play it in your '40s, and then again in your '50s or '60s, then if you're still around in your '70s, you do it again. Their tradition is, it's not something you just wait till you're an old man to do, necessarily.

"The thing is, it's like Willy Loman. You can't really wait till you're too old, because of the stamina to play that part. You need to be in very good shape to do it." *AP*

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4 pm Basic Candle Making (Things Remembered)

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10 am Gourmet Cooking with Herbs (Herbs Society President Bert C.)
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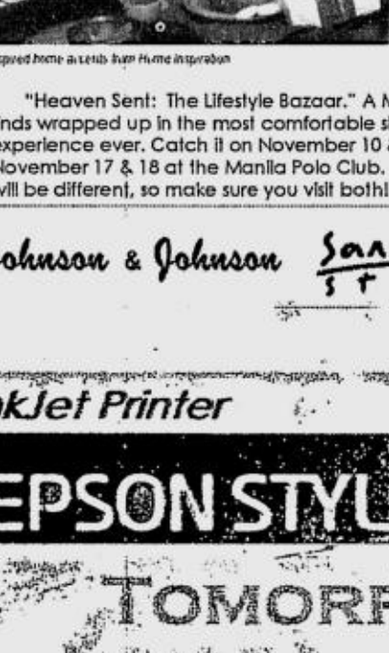

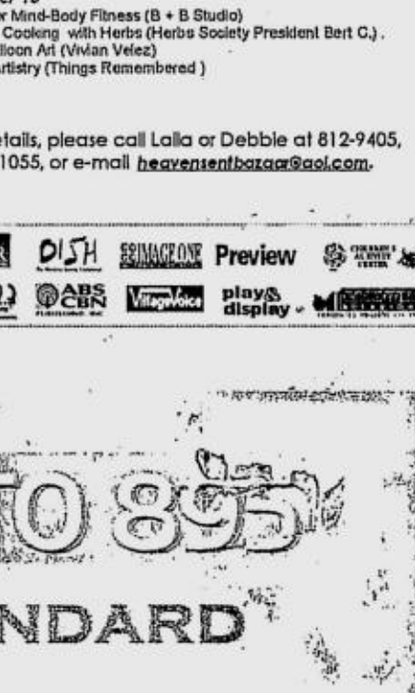

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CESAR. Plays a Muslim doctor in "Bagong Buwan."

Cesar . . . (From page D2)

started accepting "serious" roles in relevant films.

This was his way of recalling his early days in the theater, which had instilled in him a love for playing challenging characters that his more popular sexy and action starrers couldn't stifle.

Cesar's first major "serious" portrayal was the title role in "Jose Rizal." The film wasn't expected to click with the public because it was a historical movie that was supposed to be "poison" at the box office. But it confounded the naysayers by making a mint and ending up as the second biggest earner in the history of Philippine films.

Two years later, Cesar played the lead role in "Muro-Ami" and, wonder of wonders, the poetic underwater drama made even more money than "Jose Rizal!"

Combustible topic

This year, Cesar is following up again with an even more serious film, "Bagong Buwan," the first motion picture to deal with the combustible topic of the war in Mindanao.

Cesar plays a Muslim doctor who works in a hospital in Manila but rushes home to Mindanao when his young son is hit by a vigilante's bullet.

Slowly but inexorably, he gets sucked into the huge and complex conflict and finds his peaceable nature glaringly at odds with the perceived need for action and even vengeance that some Muslims are confronted with these days.

Once again, the usual naysayers are saying that the movie will have a hard time finding a big and supportive audience, but it is our feeling that, since it's the first movie made on such a controversial, compelling and important subject, many Filipinos will want to see it.

Reputation

If "Bagong Buwan" turns out to be a popular and critical hit, Cesar's reputation as one of our best screen actors will be further affirmed. His three most prestigious films have all been directed by Marilou Diaz-Abaya, but other ace director are after Cesar to star in their own prestige projects.

Meanwhile, Cesar is still acting in action films, and he's even graduated to directing some of them. That makes him unique on the local film scene, an actor who does popular *and* serious movies with equal success, enjoying the patronage of a wide range of viewers. Cesar Montano has the best of both worlds!

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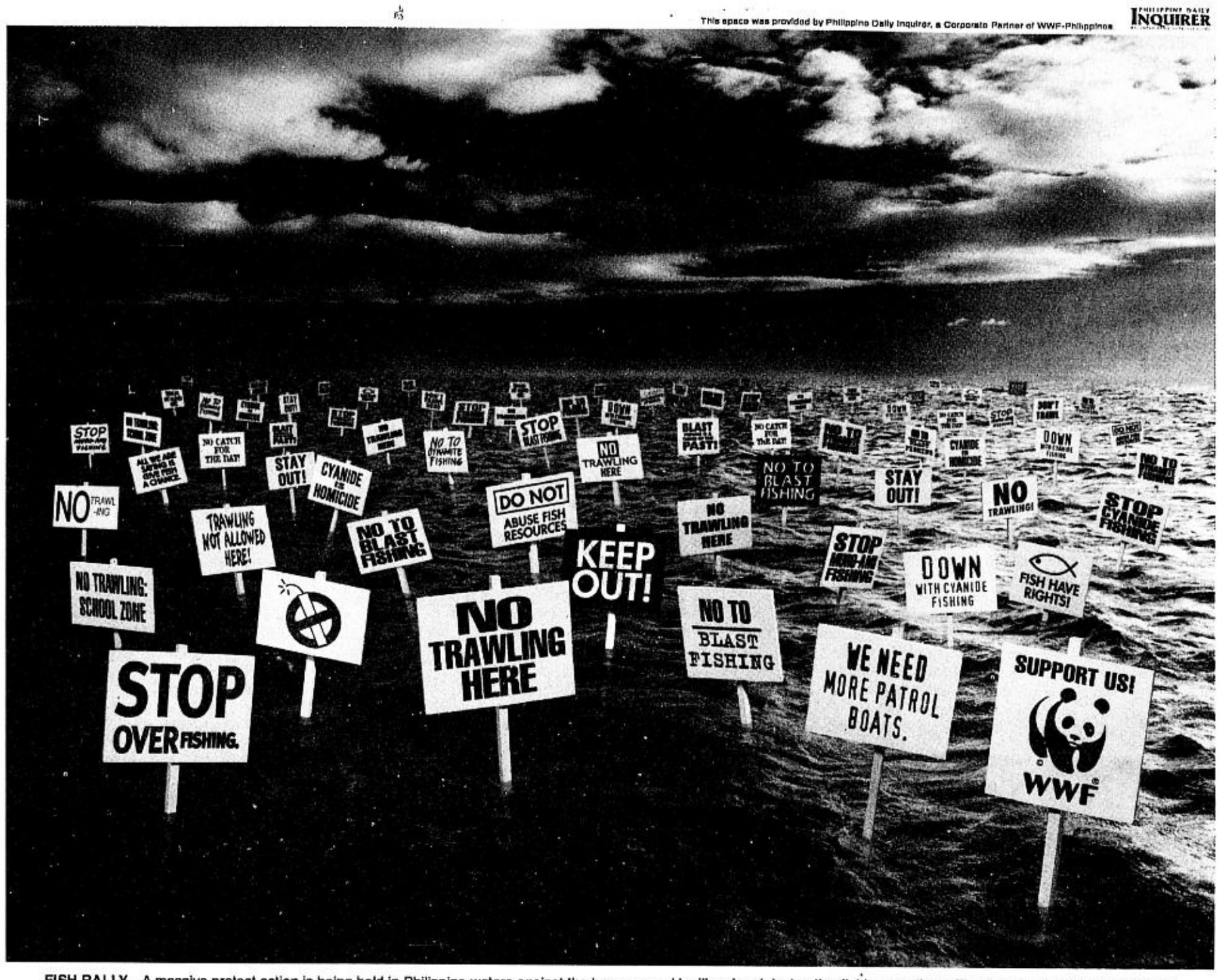

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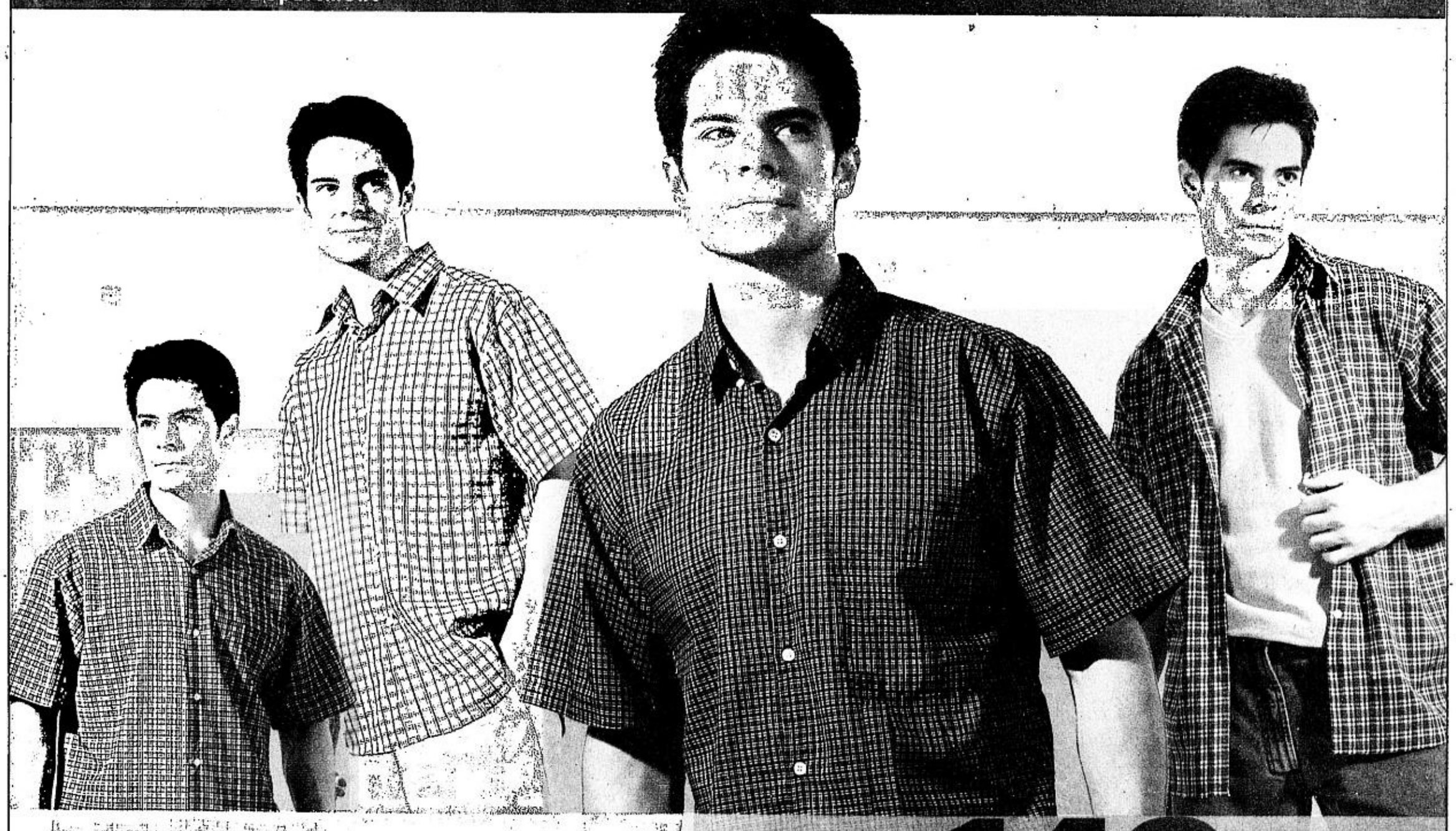

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The friends I miss

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

IT'S that time of year again—and it's even more so this season because of the extended weekend—that we remember the people we so want to hug but can't anymore—the special friends we do not stop loving just because they have passed on. And the ritual gets harder and harder each passing year. Whoever said, "You know you're getting old when the people around you start dying on you," is only half-joking.

Deaths

In show business this year, there has been an almost incredible number of deaths. If one were superstitious, it wouldn't be difficult to ascribe some ominous meaning to it. Like, just to call the roll, there were '60s matinee idol Ricky Belmonte, beauty expert-character actor Jun Encarnacion, basketeer Larry Mumar, theater actor Ray Ventura, talent manager Joey Gamara, artist-restaurateur Perdigon Vocalan, actor-director Eddie Rodriguez, and as we went to press, movie writer Ray Canete.

In the past many years, there had been people whom I wished didn't die. These were people who did not only visit my life, but they also enriched it in ways that I couldn't possibly measure, much less repay.

They helped me redefine myself and my world, and they are sorely missed, especially now that I and my world are both again going through some pretty tough re-definitions.

There was the great Charito Solis. If only I put down in writing the words of wisdom she so generously shared with me in her lifetime, they'd be surefire bestsellers now. She was a friend in ways that stretched that word beyond its simple nuances.

Private wars

She wasn't just my drinking buddy during those heady days of beer and brandy—she was also my confidante who knew my deepest secrets, my cry-mate who disdained my tears but encouraged me to shed them to jumpstart the process of healing, my "mother" who scolded me for my little mistakes and big indiscretions, my comrade in arms in our private wars against the machinations of men, and my Rock, who never wavered in her faith in me.

Next on my list is Helen Vela. In many ways, we were so alike. We both loved with a passion, giddily following the dictates of the heart, steadfastly believing that the mistakes of the heart could never be as foolish as the mistakes of the mind. We both also worked with a passion—we were such incurable workaholics that we hardly had time for recreation—because we so loved our work that it was already our source of joy!

Jelleny's greatest gift was her being instrumental in reintroducing God to me and to a lot of show biz people. I remember, at one point, she complained to me that her life has become such a bore, but I suspected that it was because she was already so absorbed in her relationship with the Lord that she found the mundane concerns of her work quite trivial. Deep inside, her soul danced to the rhythms from the drums of her Savior.

I could also never ever forget Ike Lozada. We used to belong to this "love team" (actually, a triangle with Germs as the third angle) and he was so sweet he even wrote a song for me—"My Inday and I."

Co-host

Iking died a lonely man. He was already in the doldrums of his career. He used to pester me to get him as a co-host in any of the TV shows I produced at the time—*gratis et amore*.

He just loved it when all the lights were trained on him. It energized him, gave him a reason for being, and effectively hid, if only for a while, the loneliness that gnawed at his heart.

There also was the inimitable Elvira Manahan. She laughed like a hyena but she did it with such grace and flair that it did not rankle. On the contrary, it endeared her to everybody.

She was a master of the deadpan. She could ask you the most embarrassing question but you couldn't be embarrassed because she asked it with an earnestness reserved for questions about, let's say, spirituality. Then, she let loose with her trademark laughter.

SOLIS. Confidante and "mother."

ENCARNACION. The beauty expert passed away last month.

She was unperturbable. In her TV show, they opened the telephone lines to live—meaning, unscreened—questions. A caller commented about a part of her body, which would have pulled the rug under the feet of other less poised hosts—but she shrugged and gracefully laughed her way out of the situation.

TV groupies of this generation no longer have the pleasure of knowing him but, once upon a time, there was Babette Villaruel. I so loved him! He had such a scintillating personality that his mere presence at any party automatically guaranteed its success.

Flair for the dramatic

He had self-deprecating humor enhanced by his flair for the dramatic. And he correctly believed that life was too short to squander time on such unnecessary feelings as sadness.

Babette was one of my panelists on "See True" then. He was so lovable that whenever he "stabbed" movie stars on-air with his seemingly innocent but actually very deadly questions, they not only quickly forgave him, but they even loved him for them.

And he did this dizzying spin with his head after he posed a question, which was so funny that I always cracked up each time he did it.

There were other movie writers I greatly miss. Like Oskee Salazar, another irreverent character who made a business out of vulgarity. No, he wasn't offensive—except perhaps to killjoys and spoilsports who didn't know how to laugh at themselves.

And there was Frank Mallo. He was a master of entertainment writing as black comedy, if ever there was such a thing. His pen was almost always dipped in acid but he got away with it because he had this devil-may-care, nothing-and-nobody-is-scared type of humor.

Clown

I also remember Mar Cornes. He was a friend to everyone, with no mean bone in his body. He was my clown. Just the sight of his shadow cheered me out of the doldrums. And also Ely Sablan. He moonlighted as an impersonator, but only for our small circle of friends. He parodied all the big stars. His act was a measure of a star's success. If Ely didn't do you, you weren't big!

I couldn't end this without mentioning Precy Vistro—my Unggay. I shed buckets when she died. I never got to know what her middle name was, but it must have been loyalty. For her, loyalty wasn't just a virtue, it was an obsession. And my family was so blest to be one of the objects of it.

These were the people I still love so much to this day. When they passed away, a part of me died with them. But, because of the innumerable memories of how they touched and enriched my life, I know I didn't lose any of myself, but even gained more.

Ultimately, that's what friends do to friends.

2001 Star Awards' Best Game Show hosts Paolo Bediones and Regine Tolentino.

'Digital LG Quiz' wins Star Awards' Best Game Show prize

WHO said that it's all about the money?

"Digital LG Quiz" show proved everyone wrong when it swept the Star Awards in the Best Game Show and Best Game Show Hosts categories, beating shows like "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire," "Sing-Galing," and "Battle of the Brains" last Oct. 6.

Stiff competition

Quiz Masters and favorite TV personalities Paolo Bediones and Regine Tolentino bagged the Game Show Host category despite the stiff competition they faced from Christopher de Leon, David Celdran, Allan K and Ai Ai de las Alas.

Line-produced by Alta Productions Group Inc., and directed by Pat Perez, "Digital LG Quiz" is the country's only academic-oriented game show that is still flying high on-air and getting stronger.

So, what makes "Digital LG Quiz" click?

Aside from the scholastic thrusts of the program and its strong affiliations with major universities and secondary schools, "Digital LG Quiz" lives up to its character as being dynamic, high-tech, creative, profound *and* fun-filled.

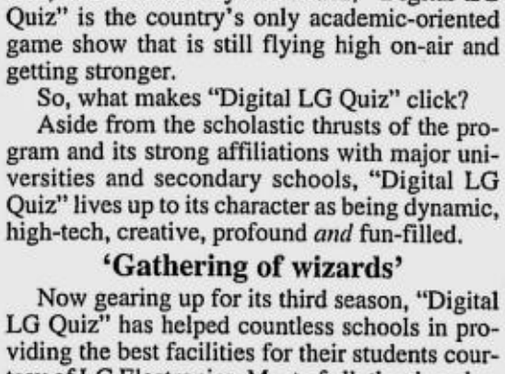
'Gathering of wizards'

Now gearing up for its third season, "Digital LG Quiz" has helped countless schools in providing the best facilities for their students courtesy of LG Electronics. Most of all, the show has discovered some of the country's most deserving scholars.

Hence, every "Digital LG Quiz" episode can be appropriately called "a gathering of wizards."

Of course, the two vibrant hosts Paolo and Regine were vital in zapping the right zest into the show, turning it into not just a plain mental showdown among intelligent kids but also a happy and healthy competition that inspires them to do well in school.

As the show approaches its second Grand Annual Finals, the games are definitely becoming more intense. Don't miss the showcase of brains and wits on the "Digital LG Quiz," every Sunday at 10-11 a.m. on GMA-7.



PAOLO and Regine with a contestant.

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From beauty 'queendom' to film stardom

BY BEHN CERVANTES

(Conclusion)

EVELYN Pascual almost bagged the Miss World title in London some years back. It is the only major title we have yet to win. Many other titles have been won over the years, including Miss Asia Pacific. In fact, Ms Pascual should have inherited the Miss World crown when the American winner, Debbie Wallace, was unceremoniously dismissed by contest officials a few months after her coronation. It was a pity the title was not passed on to Ms Pascual as expected. Evelyn was truly an international beauty at that time.

Standout

There have been many other runners-up and "almost" international winners. The latest is Miriam Quimbao who was indeed a standout in the Miss Universe contest a couple of years ago. Like Gloria Diaz she is a delectable Filipina beauty, *kayumanggi* in color, long-limbed, with a fine nose and pouting lips, long black hair and striking eyes. She almost bagged the title except that she answered the final question with trepidation, thus failing to get the nod of the judges. Nevertheless, she came home to an excited nation.

Would she enter show biz like many other beauty titleholders and runners-up before her? A career in show biz, especially the movies, seemed the natural consequence of her national recognition. Some of the lovely women who took the standard route of beauty contest winners to the movies were Gloria Diaz, Margie Moran, Aurora Pijuan, Pilar Pilapil, Isabel Lopez, Tetchie Agbayani, Elizabeth Oropesa, Alice Dixon, Liza Lorena and Anjanette Abayari. On the other hand, you can hardly name a Miss America who went bigtime in Hollywood after winning the title. Or a Miss Universe or Miss World, for that matter.

Movie

Naturally, movie companies were after Miriam's services while her name and crowd appeal were at their peak. In fact, it is said that Fernando Poe Jr., the undisputed King of Philippines movies, contracted her for a movie. That didn't work out, however.

Would she take the route of many other beauty contestants and show off her body in sexy films? Would she be the toast of the year, marry an heir of big business and then disappear? Would she thus become a footnote in that year's list of beauty winners?

Miriam did not appear in any movie. She did not bite the tempting offers. It was bandied about that she was wary of instant stardom. Instead, she studied her many options and chose to proceed slowly but wisely.

Before long, she was part of a GMA show. At first, her inexperience was evident. Often, she was also trying to be as *pa-kyut* as the others.

Anchorperson

However, not long after, she began to relax and came into her own. She reported the morning news and late afternoon *balita*. She is handling herself very well as an anchorperson with Paulo Bediones. An evident rapport has slowly developed between the two.

In fact, they look good and work well together. They shift from Tagalog to Taglish or English with ease, thus succeeding in communicating with the vast majority of viewers in a contemporary way.

I note the continuing metamorphosis of the beauty queen turned television personality. If Miriam went into the movies, what would she be doing now? I admire the direction of her career and am elated by her wonderful development.

She has become secure in her own persona, keeping in step with the times but holding back from trends and fads. Thus, she is able to show that she is not a mere public curiosity, a much-publicized beauty—here today but gone tomorrow.

When I view her adventurous segments in "Extra, Extra," it is apparent that she is a television personality who will remain with us for many fruitful years. There is direction and focus in what she is doing. The young lady has comfortably outgrown her beauty title.

The audience now knows her as an adept television host rather than a flaky beauty queen advertising her latest sexy film or denying a reported controversy in those silly talk shows. Instead, she is developing a firm foundation made up of earned credits for a promising broadcast career.

Fortitude

I admire her sense of adventure and obvious fortitude. Recently, she has focused on different colorful areas in the country and discovered inexpensive but memorable thrills. In these escapades, she has the confidence to show her good looks with hardly any make-up.

QUIAMBAO. Has outgrown her beauty title.

She is doing good work for the Department of Tourism as well as giving our people better self-esteem despite the spate of kidnappings, and other bloody and bad news that television programs love to exploit for gore, shock and ratings.

By remaining wholesome, Miriam is relaying a fine message to the young. She champions exercise, the maintenance of good health and the pleasure of discovery. She has an accompanying glow from her energetic activities. She is trim and fit.

She is also pleasantly daring. She scales heights and enters dark caves with a sense of fun. The image she projects is that of an adventurous young woman. She is contemporary but responsible.

If Miriam sincerely continues to discover her strengths, she is sure to climb greater heights as a television personality. She will surely win more admirers, and the future looks rosy for her.

She is a fine role model for young women today. I wish other beauty titleholders would be as wise and lucky as Miriam—to find the right options and make the best use of them through dedicated work and empowering self-discovery.

A week of concerts with MLTR, Marco, Janno and Carol

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

THE DANISH pop/rock band Michael Learns to Rock, balladeer Marco Sison, funnyman Janno Gibbs and several ABS-CBN talents are performing this week in separate concerts.

First up is Michael Learns to Rock, who will be featured in a return concert at the Araneta Coliseum on Nov. 6 at 8:30 p.m. The group's music has been described as "a meeting of Scandinavian light and the classical international pop song that throughout the years has been refined by artists such as The Beatles, Eagles, Elton John and Billy Joel."

The formula seems to have worked because in the '90s MLTR sold as many as eight million albums. Another thing that the group is proud of is their squeaky-clean image, one that has not been tainted by any scandal that has to do with drugs, messy divorces or extreme living.

The band is composed of singer/keyboard player Jascha Richter, drummer Kare Wanscher and Mikkel Lentz.

BANAWA AND SISON. Performing at Meralco Theater and Music Museum, respectively.

Marco sings love songs

Then on Nov. 8, Marco Sison goes onstage at the Music Museum for an evening of love songs with guests Bituin Escalante, Eugene Villaluz, PUP Chorale and Marcos' eldest son, Alain Sison.

The balladeer, who used to be a councilor in Laguna, has decided to leave the political arena for a while and revive his musical career. In the last elections, he was supposed to run for vice governor but political developments in his province aborted his plan.

His concert at the Music Museum is his first in six years so he has prepared a repertoire that should appeal to many of his fans. Ticket buyers will also get a free copy of his latest album, "Maghihintay na Lamang."

Concert for a cause

The next day, Nov. 9, ABS-CBN Talent Center artists led by Carol Banawa, Angelica Panganiban, Carlo Aquino, John Prats, Rafael Rosell, Stefano Mori, JM Rodriguez, Ang TV Kids, KOD Edge Dancers and Intensity Boys will perform for a worthy cause at the Meralco Theater at 7 p.m.

The concert is a project of the Women for the Lord Foundation made up of 14 career women—bankers, lawyers, a physician, an accountant, a nurse and a businesswoman. The group is headed by Atty. Fe B. Macalino, who saw the need to form an association "which aims to redefine the concept of women in the new millennium and their involvement in the service of God and the Catholic Church." Rev. Fr. John Arturo Morota, the vicar forane of the Muntinlupa district, is the spiritual adviser.

Four months after it was formed, the WLF has already embarked on several projects. The Nov. 9 musical show will benefit some 19,000 parishioners of T.S.Cruz Subdivision in Las Piñas after the completion of the roofing of the San Isidro Chapel.

Janno at the Big Dome

Finally, funnyman Janno Gibbs, who will soon be seen in another comedy film, "Weyt a Minit, Kapeng Mainit," returns to his first love, singing, when he performs at the Araneta Coliseum on Nov. 10. His concert is called "Viva's & I" and will feature as guests Pilita Corrales, Pops Fernandez, Jaya and Lani Misalucha. The four also perform in his latest album, "Divas and I."

Janno held his presscon for the concert at a newly opened restaurant in Pasig, Bagaberde, and as expected, he was late for the event. His excuse, as always, was that he wakes up at noontime. Janno, who is always linked with his leading ladies, laughed off rumors that he is involved with another woman again. He said the impression about his being a ladykiller resulted from his being "*malimbing*" with women.

A few meters away, his wife Bing Loyzaga was attending to one of the concert's sponsors. Janno assured us that he and Bing, who is producing the concert, are doing fine and memories of the confrontation scene involving co-star Jackie Forster are fast fading away.

Fortunate accident

"SERENDIPITY" is a romantic comedy about how belief (or disbelief) in destiny plays a significant role in shaping our lives.

Producer

John Cusack ("America's Sweethearts") plays Jonathan Trager, a sports show producer, who meets Sara Thomas (Kate Beckinsale, "Pearl Harbor") serendipitously one bustling winter day in 1990. The two are instantly smitten by each other. And despite that fact each is involved in another relationship, the two spend the remaining hours of the day together, wandering around Manhattan, all the while not knowing the other's name.

At the end of the day, Jonathan proposes that they take the next step, which is to exchange telephone numbers. Sara balks at the idea and instead proposes that each should write their names on something, release it to the world and if they are meant to be, they will somehow find their names and their way back to each other.

Preposterous

Of course, to Jonathan, the idea is preposterous. Sara however is dogmatic about her belief in fate and that is how they let things be—on the surface.

A few years later, Jonathan and Sara's lives are to take a drastic turn as each is engaged to marry their prospective partners. But somehow both have a nagging urge to seek the other and find out if indeed the road that they had not taken was really how it should have been—untaken.

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Remembering Ray Ventura, outstanding stage and film actor

VENTURA. Enjoyed nights at the ballet.

BY PABLO A. TARIMAN

HE was the ubiquitous taxi driver in "Moral," the termagant Gen. Ramos in "A Dangerous Life," the father of a barrio lass in "Orapronobis," the father of a transexual in "Miguel/Michel" and a transexual himself in "Bayad-Puri."

On top of this, he had appeared in countless plays from the late '70s to the '80s and '90s for Teatro Pilipino and Bulwagang Gantimpala, among others.

Cancer

Last Oct. 24, Raven, as he was known to friends, passed away, a victim of cancer, at the age of 57.

I am sure many will remember him as an outstanding man of the theater and film. I knew him as someone who got an emotional high listening to symphonic music and opera. Some of our drinking days with actor Pen Medina in his former Makati home were always highlighted by the voice of Pavarotti and Domingo in the background. He had a collection of albums featuring his favorite classical ensembles and soloists.

Believe it or not, Raven enjoyed nights at the ballet. Once, or thrice in our CCP-going days, we watched "Swan Lake" and "Giselle" and, over bottles of beer, we discussed what made ballerinas shine in their parts.

By then, he must have discovered that actors and ballet dancers should have one thing in common to succeed: they should know how to move and act to do justice to their parts.

When I started to get active as impresario, I brought along tapes of music wherever we were going. The taxicabs we took going to our favorite watering holes in Malate were always alive with the music of Shostakovich, as played by Cecile Licad and her Brazilian cellist-ex-husband.

Stage career

In the '80s, I followed the stage career of Raven as I did friends in our circle like Pen Medina, Sherry Lara, Len Santos, Nonie Buencamino and Spanky Manikan. I'd follow the stage appearances of Ronnie Lazaro and Joel Torre (in "Caligula" among others) after I saw them in "Oro, Plata, Mata."

In the '90s, both Raven and Pen, as well as other artists in our circle, got too busy acting on film and television. That left very little time for us to get together. I became busy organizing concerts in Manila and in the provinces, and Raven and company were doing one film and telemovie after another.

> 'The Raven I want to remember is the special friend who lived life and pursued his art to the fullest'

But the few times we had a reunion, we made up for lost time. On San Luis st. in Pasay, those happy hours extended to five in the morning and at one time, it ended at 7 a.m. with and only two people surviving that drinking spree: me and Mitch Valdes!

In all those happy days, Raven was always in his element. The last time we had fun, the password in the group was the word "tawdry." That word defined our "English" nights when we would pass ourselves off as Englishmen enjoying English tea in an English garden.

As I was preparing my remarks for the necrological services for Raven, I felt like I was making a stage debut under his direction. I could almost imagine Raven admonishing me, "Pablo, forget your English pretensions and just be one of us. *Baka maging* 'tawdry' *ang dating mo.*"

Friends

On one of those moments when they ceased being actors and I ceased being a journalist, Raven told everyone, "It's nice to be with friends, isn't it?"

It surprised us that, after many years of not seeing each other and after some earthshaking developments in our professional and personal lives, we would look forward to this reunion and act as though we had just seen each other the previous day.

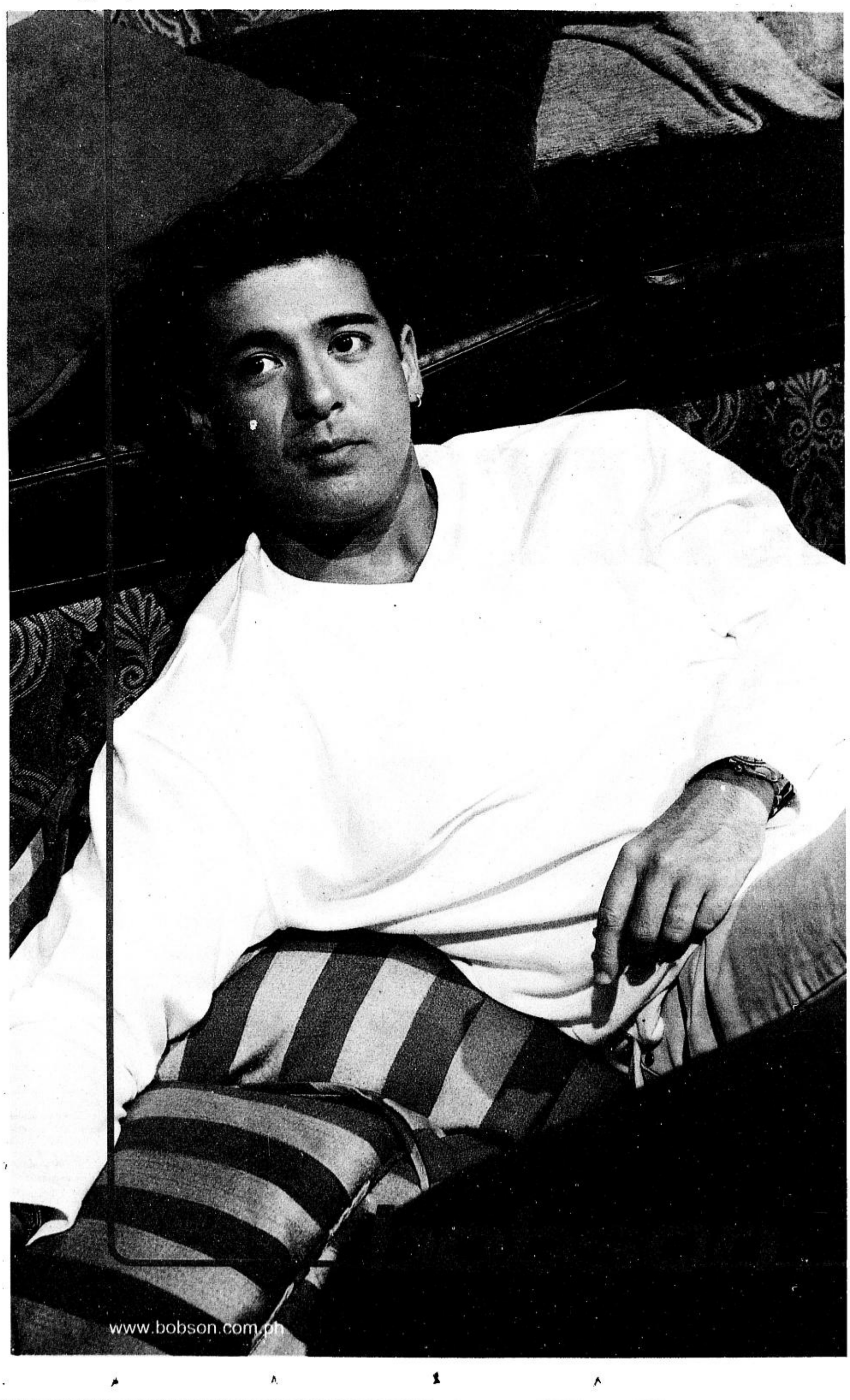
The last time I shared a CCP partierre box with Raven was one night in the late '90s when we watched his son, IR, a promising violinist, perform at the CCP in the company of seasoned artists who included the Bolipata brothers and some of the country's leading young musicians.

In the dark, as his son played Bach, I could sense that Raven was in tears. Sure, he must have been a proud father at that moment. But I could feel there was a deeper wound where those tears came from. But on the whole, I could surmise that a son sharing his passion for music was an unforgettable moment in Raven's life.

I did not have the nerve to visit him when he fell ill. I did not want to see Raven in that state. The Raven I want to remember is the special friend who lived life and pursued his art to the fullest.

I remember him as a friend who loved Licad and Pavarotti, a friend who enjoyed nights at the ballet and, at one moment, as the proud father who cried in the dark as his son played the music of the masters.

To Raven, thank you for your company—and for sharing with us, your friends, a part of your humanity.



Promising movies on TV this week

BY NOELANI TORRE

ON the HBO channel:

"Band of Brothers, Episodes 1 and 2"

Saturday, Nov. 3, 2 p.m. HBO once again airs the first installment of its original 10-part miniseries—Episode 1: "Currahee" and Episode 2: "Day of Days." Chronicling the experiences of a paratrooper company during World War 2, the first episode begins with the men of Easy Company undergoing grueling, albeit voluntary training at Camp Toccoa, Georgia.

In the second episode the men are already full-fledged paratroopers and on June 6, 1944 the company drops into Normandy, France. It is a nightmare—none of the men land where they are expected to, and many lose their weapons and supplies.

However, they are able to link up and attack a fortified German artillery position. The mission is successful but they lose their first man. Produced by Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg, this first taste of the miniseries certainly lives up to all the publicity.

"Band of Brothers 3: Carentan"

Saturday, Nov. 3, 10:45 p.m. In this third episode the men of Easy Company try to capture the town of Carentan in Normandy from the Germans. They emerge victorious but the battle results in casualties on their side.

After 36 days in Normandy and several fierce battles, Easy is sent back to England, but their celebrations are short-lived, as news comes that they're moving out again.

"Flashdance"

Saturday, Nov. 3, 4:30 a.m. Directed by Adrian Lyne, this '80s smash hit is the fairytale-esque story of a girl (Jennifer Beals) who is a welder by day, and a dancer by night. In her struggles to realize her dream, she gains the support and love of her rich and handsome boss.

With its glitzy images, high energy, and arresting musical score, it's no wonder why this movie has gone down so well with audiences. The title song by Irene Cara and Giorgio Moder won an Oscar.

"Bowfinger"

Sunday, Nov. 4, 1 p.m. Steve Martin plays second-rate film director Bobby Bowfinger in this hilarious film. He's a man who will stop at nothing in order to shoot his ultra-low-budget sci-fi movie.

Needing the big bucks that action star Kit Ramsey (Eddie Murphy) would bring, he resorts to hidden cameras and a cast of misfits—including a Kit Ramsey look-alike (Murphy again)—to force the unwilling star to "play" the lead role. In the end, he manages to pull it off. The film also stars Heather Graham and Christine Baranski.

"One True Thing"

Sunday, Nov. 4, 2:45 p.m. This film adaptation of Anna Quindlen's 1995 Pulitzer prize-winning novel will elicit both tears and laughter. Renee Zellweger is a young investigative journalist who finds herself returning home to nurse her ailing mother (Academy Award winner Meryl Streep).

While there, she discovers that underneath her mother's bubbly and domestically efficient façade lies a wise and passionate woman.

She also makes the heart-wrenching discovery that her much-idolized father (Academy Award winner William Hurt) has hidden dark secrets and betrayals from the family. In the end, she learns that the one true thing about families is that none can ever be picture-perfect.

PROMISING/ P. D7

Side A performs for the benefit of Tahanang Walang Hagdanan

BY JOCELYN VALLE

CONCERTGOERS may not care whether part of the proceeds of the show they're patronizing would benefit a worthy cause or not—as long as their favorite artists are performing for them. Well, they should.

Special events

Many times, reveals Tahanang Walang Hagdanan's producer for special events, Dodi Santos, the organization that aims to uplift the lives of orthopedically handicapped persons has been victimized by unscrupulous impresarios.

He relates that these people ask for TWH's endorsement, which the concert producers use as a come-on to sponsors and a device to get tax discounts (or even an exemption), in exchange for a share in the show's earnings.

"But they come back to us with a token donation instead," says Santos, sighing. "*Hindi raw sila kumita kaya 'yun lang ang maibigay nila.*"—Enough is enough. "We've decided to produce a concert ourselves," he declares, adding that the TWH has been greatly affected by the dwindling global economy. Local and foreign donors would rather put their money elsewhere, and the government has other priorities.

While the institution has a few income-generating projects (like the production and marketing of metalcraft, woodcraft, paper and sewn products), these are not enough to answer the needs of TWH's 250 employees, disabled and able alike, particularly their retirement funds.

Series of shows

Last Oct. 24, TWH took a great leap towards its dream as it formally inked a contract with Side A band and its manager, Lito Fugoso, for a series of shows in some Metro Manila schools and a culminating concert, with Allan K as a special guest, at the Araneta Coliseum in April next year.

"Initially, they wanted to produce just one big concert," recalls Fugoso of TWH's original proposal. "But I suggested that they should do small shows first. *Natatakot ako para sa kanila.* First time *nilang mag*-produce *ng* concert *at baka hindi maganda ang resulta.*"

SIDE A. No limitations to creativity.

Santos and company fortunately had the good sense of heeding Fugoso's advice. After all, Side A has done innumerable gigs and concert production is not an alien territory to the band and its management outfit.

Curiously, both parties didn't have any connections to each other. Fugoso just got a call from Santos one day and he initially took it as just one of the usual inquiries he regularly gets. Soon, however, he and the band found themselves deeply involved in the project.

"*Hindi na bago sa banda ang* benefit concert," says Fugoso. Side A's vocalist Joey Generoso adds that they've done a few with TWH as beneficiary. They just don't know if the organization got its fair share.

Kindness

This time, Joey and bandmates Joey Benin (bass), Naldy Gonzalez (keyboards), Kelly Badon (guitars) and Ernie Severino (drums) are sure where their kindness will go: straight to the hearts of the men, women and children of Tahanan.

They didn't only go to TWH's compound in Cainta, Rizal on Oct. 24 to close a deal. They earnestly toured the area and saw for themselves how our wheelchair-bound compatriots can be productive. They also took time out to grant every request for an autograph, a pose, a handshake, a smile and a simple wave of hand.

Even if it's not performing its hits, Side A proves that it is the most popular band in the country. Joey G believes, however, that his group has not reached its peak yet. The concert series may be titled "Pushing Their Limits," but Side A's lead singer feels that the band has no limitations in terms of creativity.

"Never-ending '*yan*," he explains. "*Hindi ka dapat tumitigil sa pag*-improve *ng* craft *mo* as a musician. *Tuloy-tuloy pa rin kami sa paggawa ng mga kanta,* as long as '*yung tao ay nagre*-respond *pa rin sa* music *namin.*"

Joey admits that the possibility of losing the band's audience one day scares him. "But there's nothing permanent in this world," he says respectively. "Sikat na musician *ka ngayon, bukas hindi na. Mangyayari ang mangyayari. Hanggang nand'yan pa sila,* enjoy *mo na lang.*"

And their loyal following will not only be entertained as the concert series for the benefit of Tahanang Walang Hagdanan kicks offs on Dec. 7 at Don Bosco in Makati City and concludes on April 5, 2002 at the Araneta Coliseum. They will also be heartened to realize that Side A is truly worth their adulation.

Promising . . .

(From page D6)

"The Hunt for Red October"

Sunday, Nov. 4, 8 p.m. Based on Tom Clancy's best-seller, this John Mc Tiernan thriller is described as "exciting" and "complex." It stars Sean Connery as a Soviet submarine captain on board a supersecret nuclear sub, The Red October, on its way to American shores.

Alec Baldwin plays the CIA analyst who tries to hunt him down and prevent the two nations from clashing. The movie won an Academy Award for sound effects editing and includes James Earl Jones, Sam Neill, and Tim Curry in the cast.

"Trading Places"

Sunday, Nov. 4, 11:55 p.m. This comic caper tells the tale of the outrageously funny results when a streetsmart conman (Eddie Murphy) switches lives with a rich snob (Dan Aykroyd). Murphy is a "comic powerhouse" in this film, and a fine cast-including Ralph Bellany, Don Ameche, Denholm Elliott, Jamie Lee Curtis, and Paul Gleason-add to the laughs.

"The Godfather Part III"

Monday, Nov. 5, 10:30 p.m. This is a prime example of a sequel that worked-primarily because of the outstanding talents of director Francis Ford Coppola and writer Mario Puzo.

PACINO. Plays an aging don in "Godfather III."

The last part of the legendary Mafioso saga, this is the absorbing chronicle of a Mafia don's (Al Pacino) attempt to get out of the crime world, and how he and his family are drawn back in by fate and circumstance.

Also starring Diane Keaton, Talia Shire, Andy Garcia, Eli Wallach, Joe Mantegna, George Hamilton and Bridget Fonda.

"Mother Night"

Tuesday, Nov. 6, 6:30 a.m. Directed by Keith Gordon and adapted for the screen by writer-producer Robert B. Weide, this is the somber yet mesmerizing film adaptation of the provocative Kurt Vonnegut classic.

Nick Nolte is an American prisoner in an Israeli jail who is writing his memoirs while being tried as a Nazi war criminal. Flashbacks tell the story of his recruitment as a top-secret US spy whose mission was to pose as a Nazi propagandist on the radio.

With his true purpose known only by a few, he is pursued and persecuted after the war. A fascinating and unsettling viewing experience.

"Starstruck"

Tuesday, Nov. 6, 5 p.m. Directed by Gillian Armstrong, this Australian musical comedy is about a-teenage boy (Ross O' Donovan) who is determined to help his cousin (Jo Kennedy) achieve musical stardom as a new wave rocker.

Funny, energetic, and possessed of an amiable tongue-in-cheek humor that pokes fun at Hollywood musicals and media hype.

"Band of Brothers 4: Replacements"

Tuesday, Nov. 6, 1 p.m. Continuing the story of the men of Easy Company, this fourth episode chronicles the joining of fresh paratrooper replacements just in time for a massive drop into German-occupied Holland for Operation Market-Garden. The company sustains more casualties as they are repelled from a nearby town by a superior German force.

"A League of Their Own"

Wednesday, Nov. 7, 9 p.m. Directed by Penny Marshall, this heartwarming comedy stars big names Tom Hanks, Geena Davis, Madonna, Rosie O' Donnell, Tea Leoni, and Bill Pullman. It tells the thoroughly entertaining story of the women's baseball league that emerged when male players went off to fight in World War 2.

Two-time Academy Award winner Tom Hanks is splendidly comic as the drunken ex-baseball star who is hired to manage the All-American Girls Baseball League. The cast is first-rate and both Davis and Madonna give stand-out performances.

"The Red Violin"

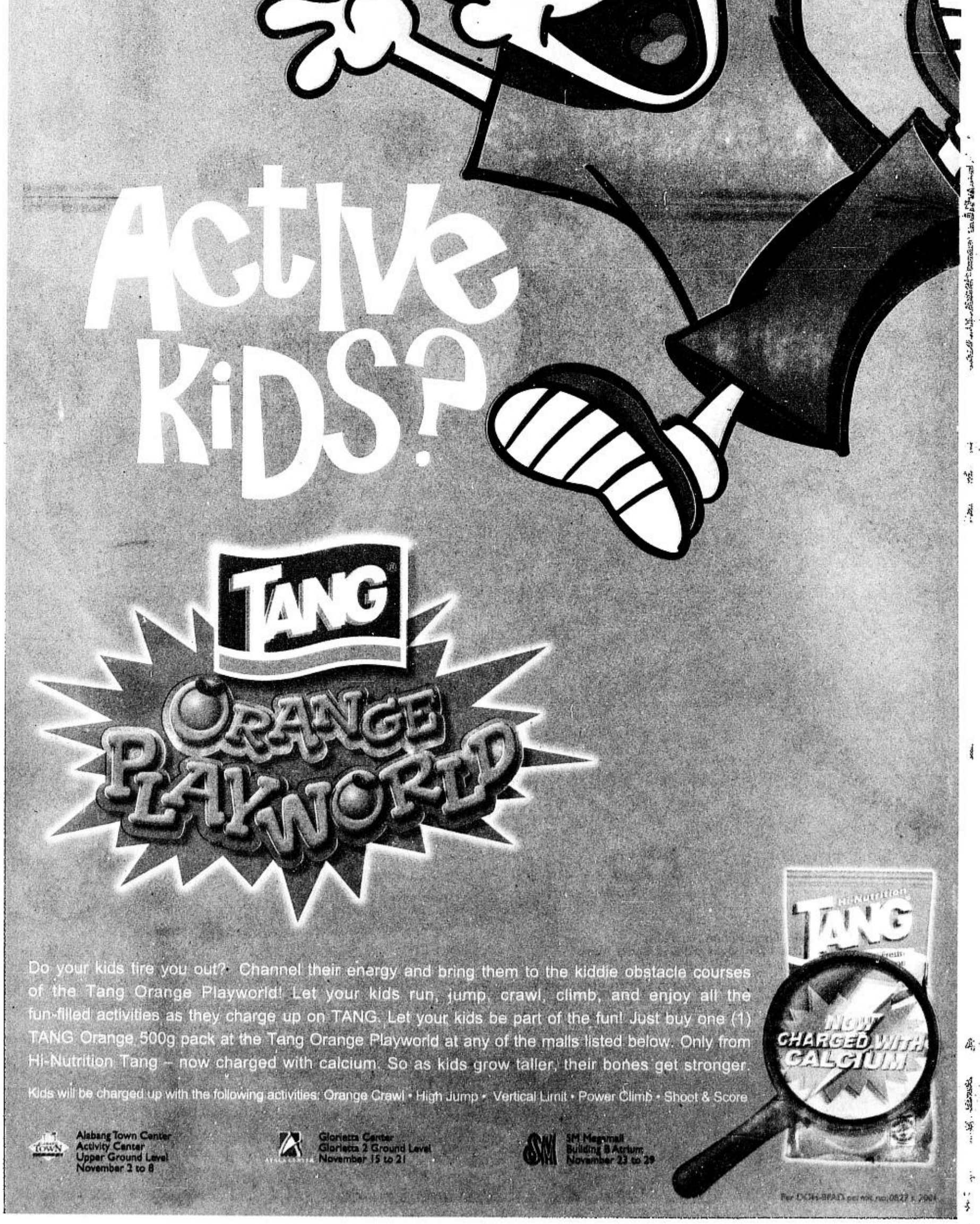
Friday, Nov. 9, 6:30 a.m. This is the extraordinary tale of the creation and journey through time and place of a unique violin. The plot is non-linear-jumping from era to era as the story of the violin's "travels" and the numerous lives it affects is slowly and magnificently revealed. Thoroughly captivating, the film stars Samuel L. Jackson, Greta Scacchi and Sylvia Chang.

On the Cinemax channel:

"Psycho"

Saturday, Nov. 3, 2 p.m. Alfred Hitchcock's most notorious film, spawning three sequels, one TV movie, and one remake. Still terrifying even now, due largely to Hitchcock's very potent murder set-pieces (who could ever forget that chilling shower scene?).

Bernard Herrmann's legendary score (also the most copied in contemporary shock-cinema) also adds much to the excitement. Anthony Perkins gives a great performance as the troubled and peculiar Norman Bates. Also starring are Janet Leigh and Vera Miles.



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SMART
Simply Amazing!

Filmmaking is family affair for growing crop of sibling collaborators

BY DAVID GERMAIN

TORONTO—In cutthroat Hollywood, where everyone's suspicious of everyone else, a lucky few have someone utterly trustworthy to fall back on. Someone with whom they share the workload. With whom they share success. With whom they share genes.

ALEC (far left) and William are two of the Baldwin brothers working in Hollywood.

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On-screen careers

Siblings have long been players in Hollywood, from the front-office partnerships of the Warner and Disney brothers to the on-screen careers of all those Baldwin and Carradine brothers.

Now, filmmaking partnerships between siblings are growing more common, with this fall bringing collaborations from Joel and Ethan Coen ("The Man Who Wasn't There"), Peter and Bobby Farrelly ("Shallow Hal"), and Albert and Allen Hughes ("From Hell").

Such partnerships take different forms. The Coens co-write screenplays, with Ethan taking the producer's credit and Joel the director's. The Farrellys share producing, writing and directing credits. Albert and Allen Hughes, identical twins, take directing credit as "The Hughes Brothers."

"It's easier that way and more catchy than 'directed by Allen Hughes and Albert Hughes,'" Albert said at the Toronto International Film Festival, where "From Hell" premiered in September. "It's too many names, and we're not really that excited about seeing our separate names on screen. We're, like, hiding behind it with a united front. And it was something we were comfortable with, because we were known as the brothers to people who knew us."

Novelty

In Italy, siblings Paolo and Vittorio Taviani have made films together since the early 1960s. But fraternal filmmaking duos were still a novelty when the Coen brothers made their debut film, "Blood Simple," in 1984.

Four years earlier, brothers David and Jerry Zucker and collaborator Jim Abrahams had to fight to share directing credit on "Airplane!" The Directors Guild of America was unaccustomed to the notion of allowing more than one name on a film.

The guild eventually relented, but not before Jerry Zucker legally changed his name to "Abrahams and Zuckers" so all three might be included in the directing credit.

"There's a logic to brothers working together, because you grow up together and you know each other so well," Zucker said. "The moniker 'Brothers' for a clothing store, a tire store, a plumbing store, or a circus like Ringling Brothers—you see it all over the place, but it took a while to see it in film directing."

The Coens, and the Hugheses, with their debut "Menace II Society" in 1993, helped inspire other sibling teams today. Such pairings became trendy and commercial with the box-office success of the Farrellys on "There's Something About Mary," Andy and Larry Wachowski on "The Matrix," and Paul and Chris Weitz on "American Pie."

The Wayans brothers—especially Keenen Ivory, Marlon and Shawn—have teamed on various films, the "Scary Movie" franchise among them. Twins Michael and Mark Polish co-wrote and co-starred as Siamese twins in "Twin Falls Idaho," directed by Michael Polish. Brothers Derick and Steven Martini co-wrote and co-starred in last year's fraternal comedy "Smiling Fish and Goat on Fire."

Precedent

"You really have to thank all those brothers. I think they created the precedent," said Jenniphr Goodman, who co-wrote last year's romantic comedy "The Tao of Steve" with sister Greer Goodman and their friend, Duncan North. Jenniphr Goodman directed, Greer Goodman co-starred.

"We've just got to get more sisters in on it," said Jenniphr, who is co-writing another screenplay with her sister which the two plan to co-direct.

Sister acts are less common, but there have been successful pairings. Nora Ephron has directed films co-written with sister Delia Ephron, including "You've Got Mail." Sisters Alex and Sylvia Sichel collaborated on the 1997 drama "All Over Me."

Many sibling partners are close in age and developed an interest in film growing up together. But the sense of cinematic kinship can endure among siblings further apart in age.

Josh and Jacob Kornbluth had the same fa-

FILMMAKING/p.E2

THE WAYANS brothers, Keenan Ivory and Damon, have collaborated on many films, including "Scary Movie."

DANIEL Radcliffe plays the title role in "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone."

Countdown to 'Harry Potter' release date starts

HARRY Potter fans are counting the days before "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" opens in their country. The first to see the much-awaited movie is London, England, where the film will have its world premiere on Sunday, Nov. 4. A gala celebration will follow the premiere screening in a West End theater.

After its world premiere, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" will start its US run on Nov. 16. We can expect it to be released in the Philippines soon after, since our playdates traditionally follow US release dates closely. The latest word is that the film will open here on Nov. 21.

The first Harry Potter film benefits greatly from the remarkable popularity of J.K. Rowlings' series of children's novels. The four Harry Potter books written thus far have topped bestseller charts all over the world, selling over 100 million copies.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

It is expected that, after "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" is released, sales of the books will receive a further boost, as moviegoers seek to familiarize themselves with the books that inspired the film.

The books were written by Rowling, a single mother, in an Edinburgh café between school runs. Other Harry Potter films will be made in subsequent years, establishing a movie franchise that is expected to be one of the film world's most popular—and durable.

"Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" stars Daniel Radcliffe as the bespectacled boy who learns on his 11th birthday that he is the orphaned son of two powerful wizards, and that he possesses unique powers of his own.

He is subsequently invited to attend a school for witchcraft and wizardry, and embarks on the adventure of a lifetime. At the school, he finds the home and the family he has never had.

The film's other major players are Rupert Grint and Emma Watson as Harry's friends, Ron and Hermione. In supporting roles are John Cleese, Dame Maggie Smith, Richard Harris and Robbie Coltrane.

Incidentally, the adult actors feel particularly duty-bound to be in the film—their children or grandchildren insisted that they accept (with alacrity!) the roles offered to them. Their kids are diehard fans of the Harry Potter books, you see.

In fact, Richard Harris' granddaughter set down her terms in the most succinct manner possible: "If you don't play Dumbledore in the Harry Potter movie, I'll never speak to you again!" So, there!

What makes Harry Potter so special to its readers? We think it's the fact that the boy hero is a wizard: Many children dream of acquiring magical powers, and now they're given a gifted child whom they can ecstatically identify with, and who can empathetically make it possible for them to achieve their dream.

Another empathetic element is the fact that Harry longs for his parents, who themselves had magical powers. This gives him a haunting, lonely quality that many children can identify with, as well.

'Kool Iskul' telecast at 10 a.m. today

Due to a technical glitch, the new educational TV show, "Kool Iskul," wasn't telecast over COC TV 39 in Cagayan de Oro City at 10 a.m. last Saturday, as scheduled. Instead, it was telecast in the afternoon, and some viewers who were expecting to watch it is the morning missed the show.

For this reason, Episode 1 of "Kool Iskul" will again be telecast on Channel 39 in Cagayan de Oro City at 10 a.m. today, for viewers who missed seeing the educational program last week.

"Kool Iskul" is for Grades 5 and 6 and presents lessons in English, Science, Math and Values, and honors an outstanding teacher each week. It is hosted by Jewel Pimentel, Andy Bais and Rito Asilo, is presented by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Banco Filipino, and is produced by Remejus, Inc.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

THE COEN BROTHERS. Joel (left) directs while Ethan produces.

Filmmaking is family . . .

(From page E1)

ther but different mothers. Josh is 13 years older and was out on his own while "Jake was becoming a conscious entity," Josh said. Yet they came together to co-direct "Haiku Tunnel," adapted from a performance monologue Josh Kornbluth created about his adventures as an office temp.

"It's strange, even though we grew up completely separately, how close our sensibilities are," Jacob said. "Even our editing decisions, when it came down to it, we almost always agreed."

Identical chairs

"While we were editing, we sat in identical chairs," Josh said. "We're not identical like the Hughes brothers, but we at least had identical chairs."

Starring Josh, "Haiku Tunnel" opened in September.

"I know it wouldn't have been possible if we didn't work on this together," Josh said. "If we work together, we'll make better stuff in the future than we would make individually."

Coming in November is "Out Cold," a snowboarding comedy that marks the directing debut of brothers Brendan and Emmett Malloy. Due next year is the heist romp "Welcome to Collinwood," written and directed by brothers Anthony and Joe Russo.

The Wachowski brothers are busy with the next two "Matrix" films, the first one scheduled for release in 2003. The Weitzes, who co-directed this year's Chris Rock comedy "Down to Earth," are collaborating on next year's adaptation of Nick Hornby's novel "About a Boy."

Sibling filmmakers say there's comfort and camaraderie in working with someone they know so well. They develop a working shorthand, often sensing the other's thoughts. When one runs off half-cocked on a bad idea, the other can slap it down without giving offense. They often play well to each other's strengths.

Albert Hughes notes that his brother is more extroverted. So Allen deals with the actors while Albert oversees the production side. That eased the workload on "From Hell," a Jack the Ripper thriller starring Johnny Depp that was shot in the Czech Republic.

Sibling filmmakers say there's comfort and camaraderie in working with someone they know so well

Pitfalls

"It's a real benefit. He was working with the production team over there while I was casting early on in the States. So it is two heads are better than one," Allen Hughes said. "The pitfalls are, there's two of you, so there's going to be arguments."

"From Hell" co-star Heather Graham said the Hughes brothers butted heads on occasion but generally kept disagreements private. She said she envied their closeness.

"If two do it, maybe you give up a little of the freedom of having your own say on everything. But Albert and Allen seem to have a really nice friendship, and I think it's great for them to have someone who's always there for you," Graham said.

A downside to sibling filmmaking can be the paychecks. The Hughes brothers said they were paid as a single director on "Menace II Society" and received only a little more than a solo director would have on "From Hell." But they each have to pay Directors Guild dues.

"In the end, they try to pay you as one," Allen Hughes said. "We're trying to change that, though. Two guys for the price of three." *AP*

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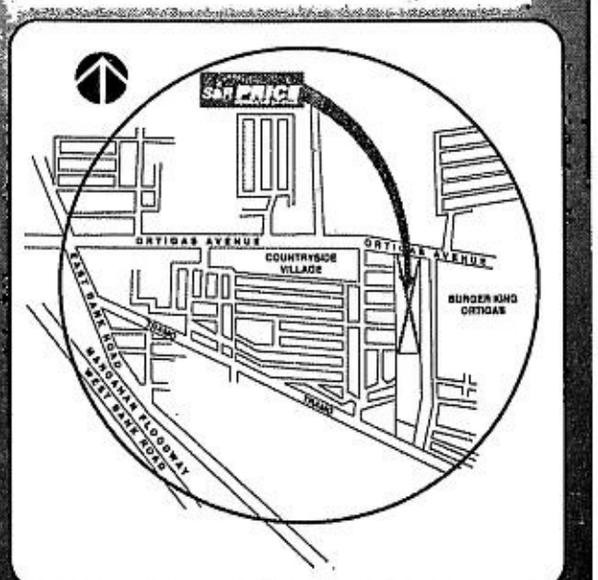

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Tiya Dely, radio's best counselor, turns 81

GOT a love problem? Go consult her. A family, health, legal or relationship dilemma? Ask her and she will offer sound advice and extend help whenever she can. She is, after all, a "living remedy" to the troubled, weary and heartbroken.

Advent

Long before the advent of radio counseling programs that gave birth to the likes of Joe D' Mango, there already was AM radio's warmhearted, soft-spoken counselor, Fidela Mendoza Magpayo, more popularly known as Tiya Dely.

Tiya Dely is a friend, someone you can talk to, an authority in imparting both advice and knowledge to millions of listeners.

In doing so, her name has become synonymous to public service via her programs on dzRH, "Ito Ang Inyong Lingkod Tiya Dely" and "Kasaysayan Sa Mga Liham Kay Tiya Dely."

With her broadcasting career spanning more than six decades, she has truly seen it all, so Tiya Dely has been elevated to the position of one of the broadcasting industry's most respected, credible and durable personalities.

Last Oct. 29, Tiya Dely turned a year wiser as she marked her 81st birthday.

Born 81 years ago in Malate, Tiya Dely, who is an AB Political Science graduate from the Far Eastern University, takes us on a trip down memory lane and relates her first taste of the limelight:

Sister

"It was my sister who got into the business first. I would go with her to some of her shows until I was tapped to do my own programs. Since then, I haven't taken my hands off the mic," Tiya Dely fondly shares.

Tiya Dely started as a singer-actress in a musical comedy variety show with Atang dela Rama and Gerry Brandy and his romancers at KZRF before World War II. She eventually moved into radio announcing, working with the likes of Dely Atayatayan and Frankie Gomez.

Tiya Dely became so popular among listeners that, even during the Japanese Occupation, her program endured and she was one of the few announcers on-air over lone radio station PIAM.

In 1946, she moved to dzRH, the flagship AM station of Manila Broadcasting Co. (MBC), as a singer-announcer with the Luz Mat Castro group and was among the very first talents of soap operas like "Ilaw and Tahanan" and the original "Gulong ng Palad" series under director-actress Rosa Mia. She also starred in Philippine Manufacturing Co. (PMC)—sponsored dramas "Prinsipe Amante," "Aklat ng Pag-Ibig," and "Camay Theatre of the Air" at dzBB until 1949.

TIYA Dely with veteran actor Augusto Victa during a drama recording session at dzRH.

She re-joined dzRH in 1952 as talent–announcer of "Saturday Night, A Date With Dely."

Announcer

In 1953, Tiya Dely became the announcer of dzRH programs like "Tugtuging Natin," "Reyna ng Vicks," and "Dely Magpayo Show Extravanganza." Soon, she was given a break by then dzRH program director Rey Oliver via the Dorothy Dicks (a US columnist/counselor)-inspired counseling program, "Kasaysayan sa mga Liham Kay Tia Dely."

"dzRH was the first-ever station to introduce radio counseling programs. It set the trend for many similar programs that we have nowadays," Tiya Dely declares.

Radio wasn't the only field Tiya Dely excelled in. She also "invaded" theater and film, actress of Manila Grand Opera House plays such as "Nasaan Ka Irog" with Angel Esmeralda and "Magkaibigang Putik" wth Pugo and Togo. She also starred in movies like "Mga Liham Kay Tiya Dely" (Larry Santiago Productions), LVN Pictures' "Sebya, Mahal Kita," and Sampaguita Pictures' "Hamon sa Kampeon," "Basahang Ginto," and "Hihintayin Kita."

Drama programs

In 1957, Tiya Dely moved to dzXL as announcer-producer of the drama programs "Tiya Dely," "Ang Tangi Kong Pag-Ibig," "Kaputol ng Lumipas," "Bakas ng Kinabukasan," "Buhay," and the musical "Serenatang Kumbidahan." She also did "Dely News" and "Dely Balita" and appeared on TV via "Hamon Sa Kampeon," "Tiya Dely Drama on TV," and "Tiya Dely Talk Show on TV" for Channel 3 until Martial Law in 1972.

During the Martial Law years, Tiya Dely worked with different radio stations. It was in 1990 when she went back to her home station dzRH, where she currently handles "Kasaysayan sa mga Liham kay Tiya Dely," (Mon.-Sta. 2:30-3 p.m.); "Ito And Inyong Lingkod, Tiya Dely" (Sat. 10:15 p.m.-12m.n.); and "Serenatang Kumbidahan" (Sat. 11p.m.-12m.n.).

A full life

While this "Grand, Old Lady of Broadcasting" has been in the radio business for so long that no one can, probably claim to know the Philippine radio industry better than she does, Tiya Dely humbly shares all that she has seen—the election of at least eight Philippine presidents, martial law, a people's revolution, and finally, democracy.

At 81, Tiya Dely only has the fondest memories of her more than 60 long and fruitful years in the business. She shows no trace of boredom or apathy to her longtime job.

Award-winner

"I love my work and through the years, my work has loved me back," says Tiya Dely, who was named Best Female Announcer in 1994 by the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas (KBP) Golden Dove Awards.

Tiya Dely has also been elevated to the Hall of Fame by the Citizen Awards for Television and was cited as one of the Outstanding Women Artists lifetime achievement awardees for broadcast arts by Unesco and Earthsavers.

"For me, there's nothing like helping my listeners in every way I can. *Kahit maliit na problema,* it doesn't matter. As long as there are listeners who still want me on radio, I will always be there for them!" Tiya Dely beams.

Death is . . .

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

THE BEST thing about death is that we don't die. Only our external garment—the gross body—is taken away from us. We then go on with our journey as imperishable souls.

* * *

We don't pursue death; death pursues us.

* * *

There should be no surprise when inevitable death comes but the illusory energy is so powerful that we do not see and accept reality as it is even before it strikes.

* * *

There is no long sleep after death. There is only our continued existence as active, eternal spirit souls.

* * *

Some pay respects to the dearly departed but totally disrespect those who are constantly present.

* * *

Death is not permanent retirement. For the materially attached, it is unwanted displacement. For the saintly, it is but a movement to the dynamic spiritual realm, going home to one's real abode.

* * *

Death has no sting for those who love the Supreme.

* * *

What happens to us after death is for us to determine here and now. What we do with our life will determine where we will be after death.

* * *

Those who experience life in loving and giving have no fear of leaving or dying. But the living dead who exist for themselves alone are the most fearful of departing from the miserable condition they have created.

* * *

Remembering those who have departed is but a reminder of our own eventual departure. The time to prepare is now.

* * *

We fear ghosts and witches if we do not have faith in the power and protection of the Supreme. Those whose lives are in the hands of the Most Powerful do not fear the lesser powers of the insignificant and obscure.

* * *

If we realized that the material body is temporary, we would not constantly beautify or glorify that which is bound to deteriorate and rot. Instead, we would seek to strengthen and purify the soul that endures beyond time.

* * *

We don't need expensive memorial plots and coffins. The memorial park is not our home. Our real need is to go back to our spiritual home—the kingdom of God—and forget about building an eternal resting place in this temporary material world.

Spotlight on two promising singers

BY REMY M. UMEREZ

HAPPINESS is hearing one's song being played on the air. This is what new Ivory artist Darwin Monteclar felt upon hearing his single "Baliw Sa Yo" on the Mellow Touch.

Darwin spent the first 13 years of his life in Davao where music is a part of the Monteclar family. A major influence is his uncle Totoy Monteclar, who wrote five compositions for his self-titled debut album.

Home for Darwin for the last 13 years has been the Netherlands, where his mother worked as a nurse. After graduating from high school, Darwin soon found work in a company manufacturing horseshoes.

Mystical

For the Amerasian guy who stands 5'9", there's something mystical about horseshoes and stallions as they are symbols of strength, endurance, masculinity and grace. Qualities you would easily notice in this unassuming crooner.

How did Darwin find his way to the local recording scene?

During a visit to his hometown, Darwin recorded some songs composed by his uncle with the aim of sending the demo tape to a prestigious recording outfit. Unfortunately, the meeting with the record executives did not push through. But the setback did not dampen the hopes of his uncle. Sometime later, the same material was submitted to another record company, Ivory.

GABRIELA. "Singing love warrior."

MONTECLAR. A blend of machismo and romance.

The demo tape was handed to Ivory's sales manager and, impressed by what he heard, he endorsed it to the company's president, Antonio Ocampo, who listened to the material. After a short but thorough scrutiny, he decided to give the aspirant a crack at professional recording.

Darwin took a leave of absence and immediately flew back to Manila for the recording sessions.

10 tracks

The 10 tracks in the album are a blend of machismo and romance.

He shines on the carrier cut "Baliw Sa Yo," where he takes a humorous stab at how it feels to fall in love, with an almost self-depreciating regular-guy approach.

Penned by upcoming song-writer Emil Pama, "Baliw Sa Yo's" fresh, soft and languid feel makes it a perfect *harana* song that will appeal to today's young lovers.

Among the five songs Darwin's uncle wrote, "Maging sa Sulat Mo" is a strong contended for a second single release.

Darwin never dreamed of stardom.

All this has changed as Ivory goes full-blast building him up as a promising pop balladeer headed for stardom in 2002.

First single

Meanwhile, listeners immediately took notice when new singer Gabriela's first single titled "Natatawa Ako" hit the airlanes. Her intense emotion touches the heart and challenges the mind of every listener. Who is this gutsy singer?

Her real name is Nikka Belardo. When Universal Records' Bella Tan heard her *"basag na boses,"* she cooked up a new monicker for her, and Gabriela was born. *"Palaban ang kanyang boses at ang mga kinakanta niya.* Our publicist Ernie Pecho christened her a singing love warrior," Tan says.

Music runs in her genes although she claims to be more of a dancer. A

SPOTLIGHT/p.E5

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM NOV. 3 - NOV. 9

CH	7	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	31
ABS-CBN	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:00 Mary D' Potter 9:00 Da Pilya en Da Pilot 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Auto Review 6:30 Uncut 7:00 Saturday Primetime Special 9:00 The Bodyguards 10:00 Explore with Mike 11:00 Auto Focus 11:30 Fox News	6:00 Wing Commander 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Tropang Trumpo 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Saturday Night Specials *Billboard Music Awards 2000* 11:00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Imbestigador 6:30 Bitoy's World 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 GMA's Best 11:00 Master Showman Presents	6:00 Star Trek 7:00 Malcolm In The Middle 7:30 Simpsons 8:00 Strange World 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 PGMA	3:30 Rising Stars of 9 Ball (Semifinals and Finals) 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 LG Flatron Billiard Challenge 11:00 IBC Elorde	6:00 Digital Tour 6:30 G2 Living 7:00 Explorer 7:30 Early Edition 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 12:00 Reel Deal	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El Coming Attractions 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 El True Hollywood Story *Barbi Twins* 9:00 El News Special *Aaliyah: A Life Cut Short* 9:30 El News Special 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Patricia Arquette*
GMA-7	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Digimon 7:30 Wansapanataym 9:00 Pinoy Exposed 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:30 The Weekend News	3:00 MBA 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 Sunday's Big Showdown 11:00 Business & Leisure 11:30 Fox News	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Eazy Dancing 10:00 Sunday Night Movies *Cutting Edge* 12:00 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Pokemon 7:30 Sinerama 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment Tonight Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 It's A Miracle 8:30 Kids Say the Darndest Thing 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 Sunday Report 11:30 Ugnayan	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:30 PBA Game 2 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 Sinemaks 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Starship Troopers 6:30 Rugrats 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Bette 8:30 Veronica's Closet 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Temptation Island 10:30 Twilight Zone 11:00 News Central	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El Coming Attractions 7:00 In Focus *Lingerie* 8:00 El True Hollywood Story *Farrah Fawcett* 10:00 El Special *Celebrity Causes* 11:00 60 Minutes
TV5	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Game K N B? 9:00 FPJ Action Cinema 10:00 Kabalikat 11:00 Headlines	5:00 Metro TV 6:00 Value Vision 7:00 Sigaw 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Speed 11:00 Unlimited Diving	6:00 F 6:30 Mahha Go Go Go 7:00 The Big Night *Friday the 13th* 9:00 Life With Roger 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 High Tide 11:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 DragonballZ 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Pinoy Blockbusters 10:00 Kiss Muna 11:00 Front Page 11:30 I-Witness	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Becker 7:30 Arliss 8:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Sex & The City	5:30 Viva Music Channel 6:30 Viva Box Office 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 Beat UK 7:00 I Dream of Jeannie 7:30 The Nanny 8:00 Dark Angel 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Jenny Jones 12:00 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 In Focus *Sexy Swimsuits 99* 8:00 Mysteries and Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 60 Minutes 11:30 Wild On *Rocks* 12:00 Talk Soup
IBC	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Camila 9:00 Game K N B? 9:30 Oka Tokat 10:00 Pwedeng-Pwede 11:00 Headlines	5:00 Value Vision 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Pulsong Masa 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Dragon League 6:30 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:00 ABC Action Theater *Sharpe's Battle Part 1* 9:00 That '70s Show 9:30 Urban Doktor 10:00 The Big News 10:30 FX The Series 11:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 DragonballZ 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:00 Kasangga 11:00 Front Page 11:30 The Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:30 Ngayon Na Pinoy	6:30 Viva Box Office 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 Later with Jools 7:00 The Three Stooges 7:30 Popular 8:30 The Others 9:30 Just Shoot Me 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Zine 12:00 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Kirstie Alley* 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 Talk Soup
VIVA	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Camila 9:00 Game K N B? 9:30 Whattaman 10:00 Your Honor 11:00 Headlines	4:00 MBA 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Paco Park Presents 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Pygmalio 6:30 Time Quest 7:00 Planet X 7:30 Sabrina The Teenage Witch 8:00 Chicago Sons 8:30 Friends 9:00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Phils.' Most Wanted 11:30 Police Academy	6:00 Saksi 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 DragonBall Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Beh Bote Nga 10:00 Larawan 11:00 Front Page 11:30 Jessica Soho Reports	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Level 9 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Bully the Vampire Slayer 10:00 Newswatch Now 11:10 Wrestling 11:30 Kasangga Mo Ay Langit	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 New Music 6:30 Soundcheck 7:00 Twilight Zone 7:30 Scariest Places 8:30 Game Plan 9:00 The District 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 In Focus *Sexy Swimsuits 2000* 8:00 Mysteries and Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:30 Wild On *Springbreak 2001* 12:00 Talk Soup
RPN	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Camila 9:00 Game K N B? 9:30 Maalaala Mo Kaya 11:00 Headlines	4:00 Shop @ Home 5:00 Value Vision 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Concert At The Park 11:00 Fora Medica	6:00 Shulato 6:30 Fancy Lala 7:00 Guinness World Records 8:00 Soldier of Fortune 9:00 Normal Ohio 9:30 The Exchange 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Strangers 11:00 New York Undercover	6:00 Saksi 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Daddy Di Do Du 10:00 Sinerama 11:00 Front Page 11:30 Debate with Mare at Pare	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Clueless 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 The Basketball Show 11:30 Souvenirs of the 20th century	6:30 Viva Box Office 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 Behind The Music 7:00 The Green Hornet 7:30 Cineplex 23 9:30 Guide to Urban Living 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Travel Time 12:00 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Gary Sinise* 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 10:30 Uncut *Lawrance Fishbourne* 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 Talk Soup
ANC	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Camila 9:00 Game K N B? 9:30 Star Cinema Presents 11:00 Headlines 11:30 True Crime	4:00 MBA 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Patrol 117 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Lazer Patrol 6:30 Starcom 7:00 By Request 8:00 Touched By an Angel 9:00 Working 9:30 On-Air 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office *Indecent Seduction*	6:00 Saksi 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 DragonBall Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Bubble Gang 10:00 GMA Love Stories 11:00 Front Page 11:30 Emergency	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 That's Life 8:00 Dharma & Greg 8:30 Nikki 9:00 City of Angels 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 TV Greats on Friday	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 Halo-Halo 7:00 Batman 7:30 Exposed 8:30 Mortal Combat 9:30 When Hidden Camera Attacks 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Jenny Jones 12:30 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 In Focus *Sexy Swimsuits 2001* 6:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 10:30 Wild On *Fortalexa* 12:00 Talk Soup

Spotlight on two promising singers

(From page E4)

native of Baguio, she joined the all-female band called Breakthrough as a drummer. She was a BS Biology student at UP Baguio when she became a solo performer. She was discovered by hitmaker Vehnee Saturno while jamming with fellow sing-along enthusiasts at Music Box.

She sounds like she's in a "fighting mood" in her first single "Natatawa Ako," with her powerful rendition of the song's provocative lyrics.

The second single "Binago Mo" has a more positive theme which could easily make it a favorite love anthem of today's generation.

What makes every Gabriela song in this album accessible to all kinds of audiences is her straightforward and sincere performance.

Most of the songs featured are Vehnee Saturno originals, including "Mahal Pa Rin Kita," a former rock star hit; "Pinaikot Mo Lang Ako," "Baliw," "May Mahal Na Ako," "Ika'y Mahal Pa Rin," and "Bakit Kailangan."

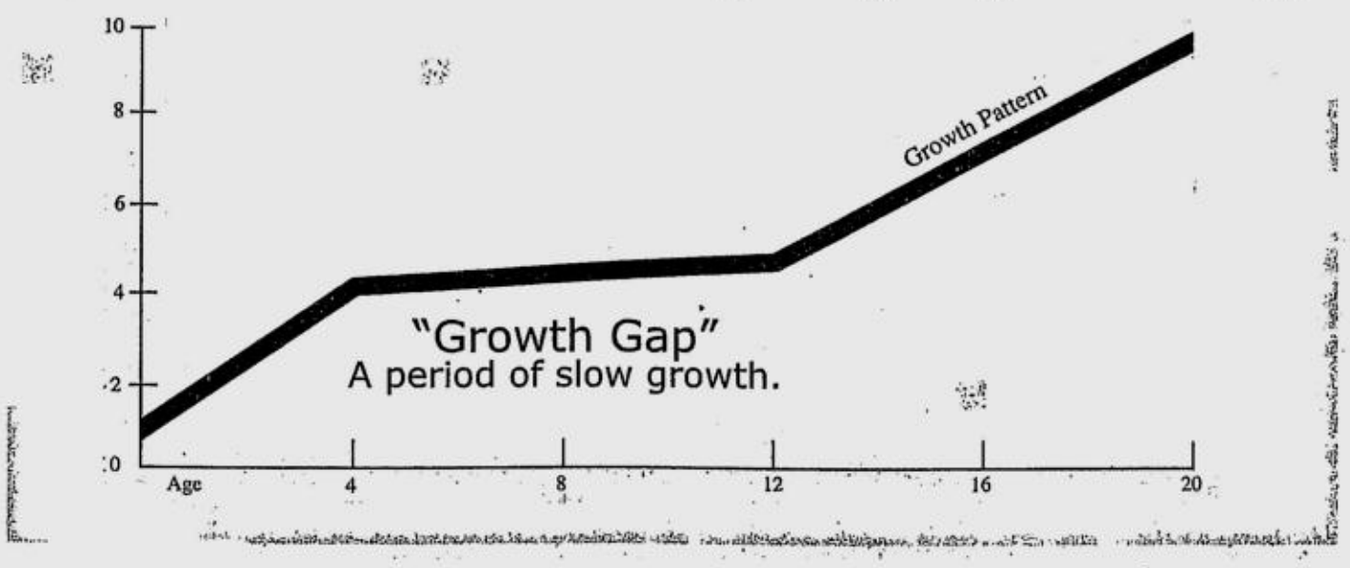
Bridging the gap in growth between infancy and puberty.

Kids will always be kids. They eat whatever they want to eat and play whenever they feel like it. Especially when they're at their school age years, when they're too old to be considered toddlers yet too young to be adults.

At this precocious phase, the rate of their growth slows down. This is a fact that many parents might overlook since they usually pay more attention to their child's growth during the toddler years.

GROWING PAINS

A child's growth slows down after the toddler years.* It is until the onset of puberty that dramatic changes occur in their body and lack of proper nutrition and an unhealthy lifestyle can just aggravate this universal pattern of slow growth among school age kids. Physically, this phenomenon is evident in the height and weight of the child. Annually, they can increase their height by only up to 3 inches and their weight by only 3 to 5 pounds**. Their head tends to be disproportional to the rest of their body, their abdomen flattens & the arms and legs get longer. The bones, which contribute to most of the child's height, also grow. The common term, "growing pains"*** can be attributed to this as kids can experience stiffness and aches when their skeletal structure changes. Kids can also lose a lot of energy with increased physical activity. This is the reason why giving them proper nutrition during their school age years is important. Junk food, fastfood and ready to eat meals can be a scrumptious part of their diet, but it's definitely not nutritious.



Playtime may be fun time, but kids would need more energy to recover from what they've lost at play.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The slow growth phenomenon, coupled with a more energetic lifestyle, can affect how the child will grow up to be once he or she reaches puberty.

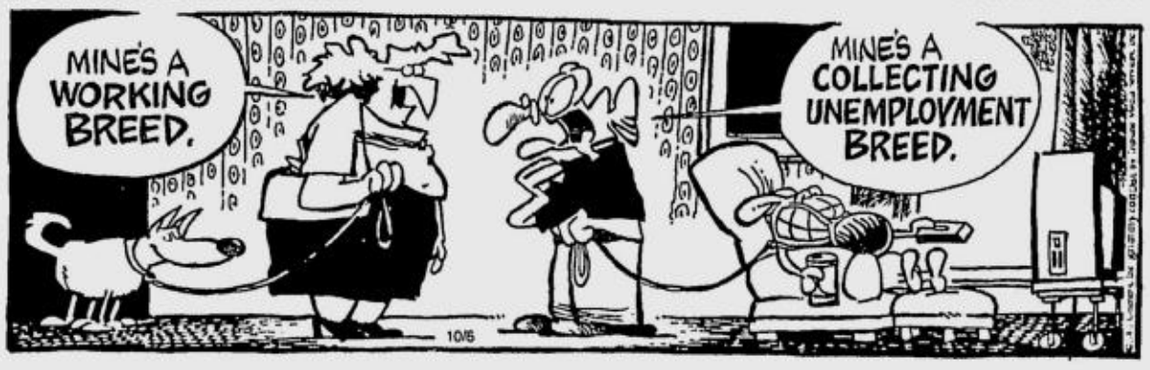
Milk spells the difference between slow growth and faster growth for a child.

It has been proven that milk is a powerful influence on a child's physical development because it has calcium that is vital for growth. The calcium and extra proteins in milk can help build the bones and help the rest of the body replenish the lost energy for active school age kids. Studies even show that "people who have a diet rich in milk are generally taller"****

Because school age is supposed to be the most energetic time for kids, parents shouldn't let slow growth hamper the fun during the growing up years. With proper nutrition and milk, there wouldn't be any reason why kids won't reach their potential growth. After all, a child's growth isn't something parents can kid around with.

*Smallfolk.com
**Prof. Gisela Luna. Dept. of Family Life & Child Development. University of the Philippines.
*** Prof. Gisela Luna. Dept. of Family Life & Child Development. University of the Philippines.
**** Sinclair, David & Peter Dangerfield, HUMAN GROWTH AFTER BIRTH. Oxford University Press, Oxford 1998. p.157-158.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS



A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

ANIMAL CRACKER BY FRED WAGNER

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

GARAPATA BLOOD BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dave Winfield, Neve Campbell, Gore Vidal, Roy, Tommy Lee

Happy Birthday: You'll find it easy to chug along and complete projects that may have lagged in the past. Your unique creativity will elicit interest from observers. Your numbers: 19, 21, 24, 32, 36, 28

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stop griping and start on some worthwhile project. Don't blame others. If you are loving and affectionate instead of persnickety, relationships will be rewarding.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take action on those improvements in your personal life. Taking care of legal matters can clear the air and finishing paperwork can clear the slate.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Participate in events to meet some fascinating people. Partnerships are possible and progress can be made, but be careful. Someone's word may not be good, so get all promises in writing.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Home-improvement projects will add value. You can make money if you concentrate on financial planning. Forming a partnership could be what you need to subsidize your ideas.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A dream can turn into reality. Your luck is mounting so don't be afraid to play the odds and find a way to take that long overdue vacation. This hectic nonstop pace seems never-ending.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Involve yourself in real estate or redecorating. Help others in a practical and timely manner. Changes at work will prove beneficial even if it doesn't appear that way right now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Romance is in the air. Your partner won't take no for an answer. You need the break anyway, and your relationship will be closer.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You must put your energy into your work. If you do a good job, it will be hard for an opponent to stand in your way. Your intensity and cooperation are hard to beat.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't be afraid to tell that special person how much you care. Financial opportunities and contracts should prove to be prosperous. Take some short trips in search of information.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stick to what you do best and don't make proclamations about subjects that you have absolutely no clue about. Follow through on a money-making idea that you have researched thoroughly. Your partner may be emotional if you want to spend joint funds.

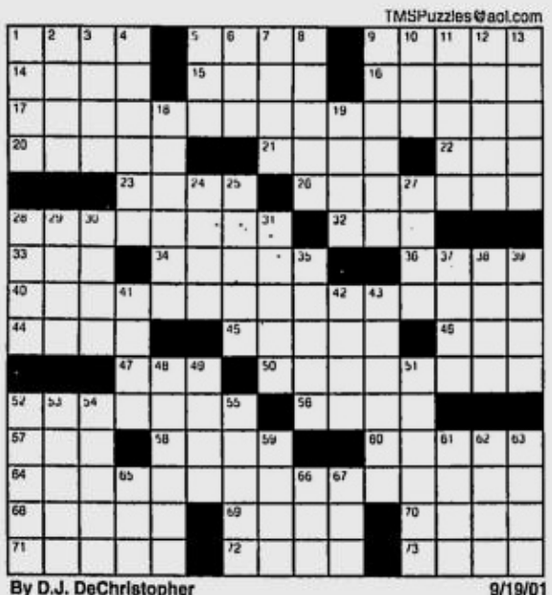
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Spend time with friends and don't let trivial annoyances at work get you down or ruin your day. Your renewed discipline makes this a superb day to start a diet or an exercise program.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Start to save your hard-earned cash. You've always given in to others. Remember, charity begins at home. If you are too generous, you will be the one who is left short.

Birthday Baby: Your insightful manner will put others at ease. You are curious in a practical way. You'll have a variety of interests and be popular throughout life.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By D.J. DeChristopher
Staten Island, NY
9/19/01

ACROSS
1 Bologna eight
5 Open a crack
9 Stock unit
14 Felt regret
15 Trunk
16 Peeled
17 Film featuring Sally Field as a journalist
20 Rodeo rope
21 Shred
22 Bask
23 Breeder horse
26 Winter apples
28 Mr. Fixit
32 Zodiac sign
33 King topper
34 Conduit
36 Pakistani language
40 Film featuring Denzel Washington as a journalist
44 Alone
45 I want in!
46 __ Zedong
47 Natl. network
50 Abridges
52 Reddish rash
56 Automaker Ferrari
57 Simian
58 Seniors' org.
60 Small antelope
64 Film featuring Drew Barrymore as a journalist
68 Love of money
69 Okinawa port
70 Texas crock
71 British peers
72 Accomplice
73 Hardens

DOWN
1 Verbal
2 Big, band tote
3 Hardy heroine
4 Black Sea port
5 "Spin City" network
6 Regular guy
7 Oodles
8 Pass on (to)
9 Widely scattered
10 Actor Holbrook
11 Crop up
12 Slice again
13 Idyllic gardens
18 Observe
19 Sledgehammer
24 River to the Caspian Sea
25 Jeans material
27 Excessively acid
28 Curses!
29 Canyon's reply?
30 Strip
31 Tries to outrun
35 Wood-shaping machine
37 Coleridge poem, "The __ of the Ancient Mariner"
38 College VIP
39 Vehicles for E.T.s
41 Roman Catholic leader
42 High time?
43 Russian wolfhound
48 Wood planks
49 Thick slice
51 Trunks
52 Extent covered
53 Soap or horse follower
54 Break off
55 Showplace
59 Ring
61 __ Royale, MI
62 Sam Browne or Van Allen
63 Lupino and Tarbell
65 Slippery fish
66 Org. of Capitals and Senators
67 Round Table knight

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

D	A	M	E		R	O	B	I	N		S	L	A	G
A	R	I	A		E	R	A	T	O		P	A	I	R
M	A	C	S		M	A	T	E	R		A	T	M	O
P	L	A	Y	W	I	T	H	M	A	T	C	H	E	S
			M	O	T	E				W	E	E	D	S
O	S	C	A	R	S		A	D	I	O	S			
T	O	U	R	S		R	U	E	R			T	A	U
T	A	L	K	T	O	S	T	R	A	N	G	E	R	S
O	P	T			A	V	O	N		E	L	A	T	E
			T	A	R	P	S		H	E	A	L	E	D
D	R	O	O	L				S	O	D	S			
R	U	N	W	I	T	H	S	C	I	S	S	O	R	S
A	P	S	E		Y	O	K	E	S		J	U	A	N
F	E	E	L		P	R	I	N	T		A	S	T	A
T	E	T	S		O	A	T	E	S		W	E	E	P

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9/19/01

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

HI AND LOIS BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING

REY AND CITA. Lively repartee on "Cara y Cruz."

AM/FM

Langit and Astals host engaging radio program

BY RITO P. ASILO

REY Langit's tandem with Cita Astals is an interesting study of contrasts. While Langit's deep baritone jars the auditory sense with his familiar radio-friendly vocal affectations, Astals tempers it with her intimidating—often acerbic, sometimes bawdy—but knowledgeable tone.

Banter

In dwIZ's "Cara y Cruz" (mornings at 882 AM), the station's answer to morning news and public affairs fare, the duo engages in banter that ranges from serious to mocking, from edgy to naughty.

The chemistry is unlike the usual "he said, she said" team-up in that there hardly is any. But maybe that is what makes it work. It's like mixing durian and marang in a fruit shake—very unlikely but oh, what an interesting flavor it makes!

For the listener, it is Cita's unpredictability that does it. One constantly wonders what the fiery lady is going to ask her guests next. But make no mistake, Langit gives the show the objectivity and perspective that a public affairs show needs most.

When we tuned in to "Cara y Cruz" last week, we chanced upon PNP Deputy General Hermogenes Ebdane being interrogated about peace and order, particularly on a kidnapping case and the ever news-worthy Abu Sayyaf saga.

Defensive

After three consecutive "no comments" from the soft-spoken general, Cita just had to say, "No comment *naman lahat ng sinabi ninyo sa amin*!," and that got the military man on the defensive. He snapped back, "*Isipin naman natin ang kapakanan ng mga biktima dahil buhay nila ang nakataya dito!*"

It's probably Cita's self-deprecating humor that makes her get away with her biting sarcasm. People just can't figure out when she's kidding and when she means business.

In the show's "Attorney No Case" segment, a lethargic Marcos sound-alike shoots off funny one-liners about current events, with tongue firmly in cheek.

Another portion, "Cara o Cruz," discusses the good and bad sides to an issue, thus the title. This particular segment is the fun part of the show because it allows the hosts to "get down and dirty" and stop with the stoic act of impartiality and objectivity. This is laced with recorded voice messages from common folks on the street dishing out their opinion about issues.

When we tuned in last Monday, the "Cara o Cruz" question was whether it was justified for public officials, whose travel tabs were paid for by public funds, to engage in their endless travel sorties to foreign lands.

The two hosts chose which side to take and discussed it lengthily. But their friendly barbs at each other were more interesting than the substance of their respective arguments.

Investments

When Rey reasoned that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's recent Tokyo trip managed to bring investments to the Philippines, Cita dared him to say which investment package he was talking about: "*Gaya ng ano? Alin*?"

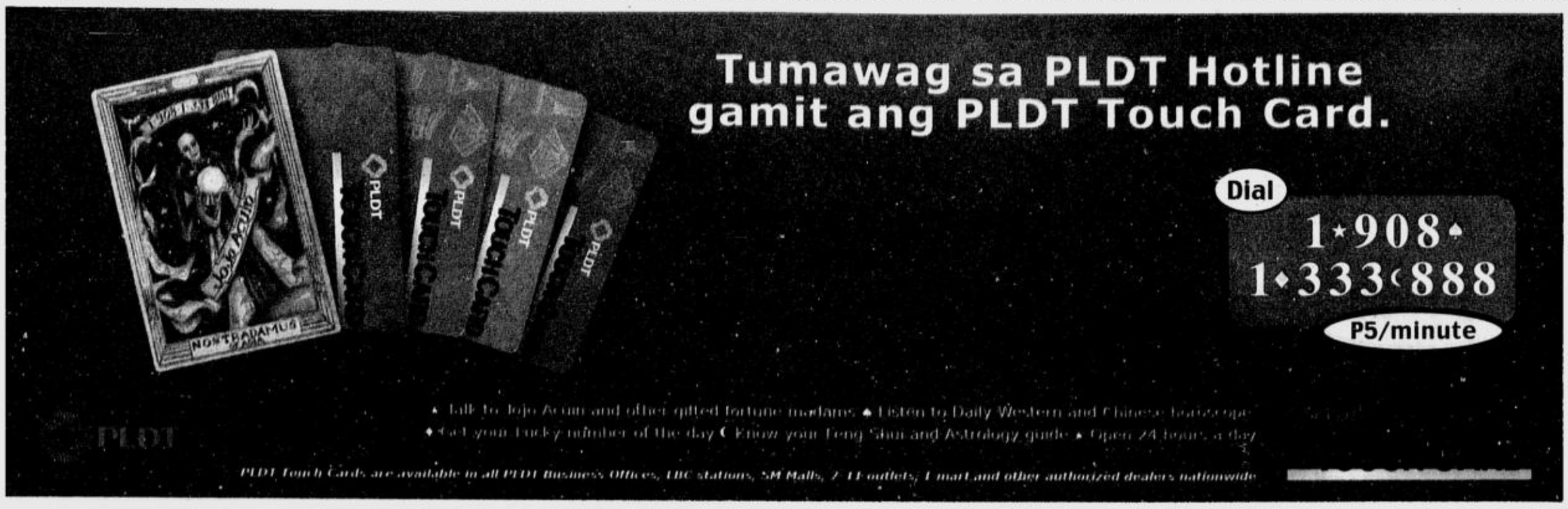
He answered back, "*Meron talagang* investor *na pumasok na nagkakahalaga ng ilang milyong* yen!" Then caustically, she went in for the kill and remarked, "*Eh mga sampung libong piso lang ang equivalent ng isang milyong yen, a*!"

That may have led Langit to admit, "Maybe some of my figures were wrong," which was admirable as far as broadcast journalists go. Most of them don't admit to making mistakes because they feel that admitting to them affects their credibility.

But Langit had the last laugh when it was his turn to turn the tables on Cita, an actress and a high-profile councilor of Manila (like Lou Veloso) who recently figured in the Mehan Gardens controversy.

After Cita shared her negative stand on the frequency of "official" travels of public servants, in the process embarrassing Rey unwittingly, Langit crept in inquiringly with an off-the-cuff question that took Cita by surprise. He simply asked, "So, *tuloy ka na ba ngayong* Friday?"

Apparently, Cita was herself scheduled to travel! They did not discuss the nature of this trip, though, whether it was personal or official. But she answered back, "*Whoaa*! That statement was malicious! That was below the underwear!" And she let out her characteristic laughter that shook the airwaves.



For FPJ, F is for foresight in film preservation

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

EVERY Monday night right after "Game Ka Na Ba?," Channel 2 is airing "FPJ Action Cinema," showcasing one film starring Fernando Poe Jr., the country's longtime movie king, each week. Therein lies an instructive tale:

Old movies

FPJ is able to show his old movies on TV because he is one of very few veteran Filipino producers who have been aware of the importance of film preservation. Most other producers have not taken care of the prints and even the negatives of their movies, so many of our old films can no longer be viewed.

But, as early as the '60s, Ronnie Poe was able to combine his love for the movies and his visionary business sense, and took pains to preserve the productions of his film company.

In the '60s, producers didn't derive much extra income from showing their old movies on TV, but FPJ had foresight: He knew that the time would come when TV would become so big and competitive that television networks would pay a lot of money to show movies on TV, particularly when they were big blockbusters topbilling major stars like him.

Juicy contracts

True enough, the day came when TV stations beat a path to his door with juicy contracts, and he was all set for them. He had scores and scores of films that were ready for showing on primetime TV, unlike other producers' tattered products.

FPJ's success on TV should prompt other producers to make up for lost time and initiate their own film retrieval and preservation campaigns.

When TV stations beat a path to his door, he was all set for them. He had many films ready for showing on television, unlike other producers' tattered products

TV rights for films can run into the millions of pesos these days, so producers can make a lot of extra money—*if* their movies are in a good enough condition to be shown on TV.

Movie projectors in local theaters, particularly in the provinces, are notorious for the way they "eat up" the film footage that runs through them. Still, a more careful system of controls and safeguards can help minimize the damage.

More damage

After a film has completed its first, second and third runs around the country, its prints are sent back to its producer, and this is where more damage can be inflicted, if the prints are neglected and left to rot in storage.

FPJ has made sure that the prints of his movies are stored in areas where the temperature and level of humidity are controlled. Also, editors make sure that missing or defective shots and sequences are replaced.

POE. Love for movies and visionary business sense.

If an entire print of a popular old film is defective, a new one can be made from the film's negative, which has also been carefully put in storage.

Treasure trove

Because of his foresight, FPJ is now one of our wealthiest star-producers, not just because he gets millions for starring in a film, but also because he gets many more millions from his well-preserved treasure trove of old movies.

Would that other producers would follow his example, and that of Sampaguita Pictures, which has also taken steps to retrieve and preserve its legendary film library.

Not only will producers make a lot of money again from their old movies, but their good business sense would also make a lot of *artistic* sense because it would result in the preservation of many films that would otherwise be lost to us, and to posterity.

Ngayon, huli mo na si LUPIN THE 3RD

Sali na sa Animé fever! Join ka na sa new Aksyon Animé Klub ng Talk 'N Text!

Catch Lupin the 3rd, isa sa mga pinakasikat na animé characters, sa Talk 'N Text cellphone mo! Dahil ngayon, puwede ka nang mag-download ng official Lupin the 3rd picture messages, ringtones, logos, group graphics at screen savers!

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Helo kung paano mag-register:
1. Send a text message to the number **235** stating **"JOIN ANIME"**
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List of Available Screen Savers**	SAVER L3 and send to 235
List of Available Ringtones*	TONE L3 and send to 235
Help on different commands	HELP L3 and send to 235
To invite your friends to join the Klub	INVITE <your friends' number> and send to 235

*Service can be downloaded only via selected handsets
**Available only on Nokia 3310, 3330 and 8250

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SAMPLE PICTURE MESSAGES
L3lupin2 L3fujiko2 L3goemon1 L3jigen2 L3zenigata2 L3zenigata1

LUPIN THE 3RD RINGTONES
L3TONE1 L3TONE2 L3TONE3 L3TONE4

For other logos and picture messages, type **LOGO L3** or **PIC L3**, tapos, send to **235**.

Download requests will be charged as follows: Help and other regular commands – P2.50; logos, picture messages, group graphics, ringtones – P12.00

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VISIT THE ANIMÉ QUEST 2001
Nov. 1-4, 2001
SM Megamall Megatrade Hall B

Yan ang galing... without overspending!

Junior INQUIRER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2001 ✦ 12 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 5, NUMBER 56

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Give me a break!

BY NICO MIGUEL N. GARCIA, PAREF-SOUTHRIDGE SCHOOL; STANLY GALO C. SY, XAVIER SCHOOL; ANNA ELVIRA S. ARCELLANA, MIRIAM COLLEGE GRADE SCHOOL; MARIELLE S. DELA CRUZ, UP INTEGRATED SCHOOL; ALEXIS DY, IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ACADEMY; MONICA LUALHATI, ST. BENEDICT COLLEGE; MICHAEL MANANGU, COLEGIO SAN AGUSTIN

SEMBREAK! The one and only mini vacation for the school year. the *kuya* of weekends and little brother of summer vacation. In case you've run out of ideas, here's what other kids have planned.

"This semestral break I will visit my *lola* who is dead in the cemetery and I will also pray for her. I will play some games with my family. I will also visit my cousins. I will go to the province to visit my *lolo* who is now dead too."

—***Elain Joy M. Tan**, 11, St. Benedict* College

"I will tell the world that I am *pogi* while doing a somersault."

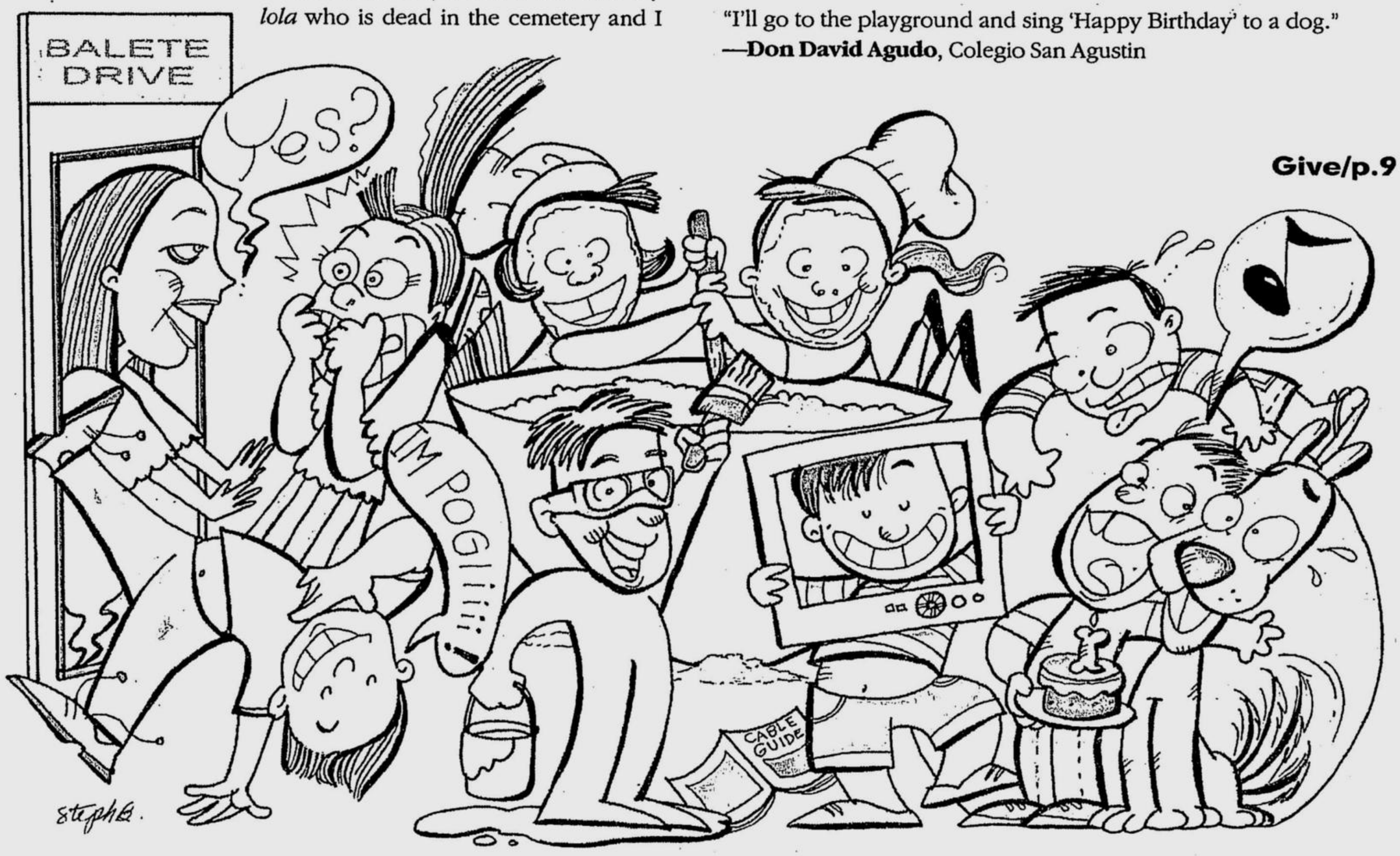
—***Lexter Troy Diolata**, 11, Colegio San Agustin*

"I'll try to build a hiding place in my room in preparation of any terror list attack."

—**Stephanie Sy**, 8, Immaculate Conception Academy

"I'll go to the playground and sing 'Happy Birthday' to a dog."

—**Don David Agudo**, Colegio San Agustin



Give/p.9

WORLD SCOPE

Uneasy Vigil

THE USS Vella Gulf, a guided missile cruiser, patrols at dawn in the Arabian Sea. Battleships have started to patrol the area in support of the Uniteds States' "Operation Enduring Freedom." ***AP***

Concert for a Cause

AMERICAN actor Harrison Ford introduces a police officer who was injured at the attack on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11. They were at the "Concert for New York," at New York's Madison Square Garden to raise funds for the victims of the terrorist attacks. ***AP***

FRENCH astronaut Claudie Haignere, center, her Russian crewmates Viktor Afanasyev, right, and Konstantin Kozeyev, left, wave just before the launch of the Soyuz TM 33 spaceship at the Baikonur Cosmodrome. The Russian-French crew blasted off Oct. 21 for the International Space Station. ***AP***

Queen to Be

SWEDEN'S Crown Princess Victoria speaks during an interview with the Associated Press at the Swedish Embassy in Tokyo. Victoria, the eldest child of Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia, is in a unique position. Because Sweden amended its laws in 1979 to eliminate provisions that allowed only sons to assume the throne, Victoria would be the country's first reigning queen. ***AP***

Updated Textbooks

PAGE proofs of textbook revisions hang on the wall at the Pearson Education facility in Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. Since Sept. 11, US textbook publishers have scrambled to revise their books to include references to the terrorist attacks. ***AP***

'Boo!-tylicious'

A JI writer encounters little spooks walking around with their mothers. What's this?!

BY LOUELLA E. YU
JI CORRESPONDENT
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ACADEMY

Photos by JOAN BONDOC

OHMIGASHUS! Look at all the cute costumes!

WE interrupt your weekly JI reading for an exclusive horrifyingly cute report. This just in, one of our reporters has been amazingly exposed to ohmigashus lukatolda kyutcostumaytaitis, which is a rare djsease common during the month of October. Symptoms of this disease include gaping, stiff neck, drooling and uttering undecipherable sounds like "ooo. . .you lookie sooo cutie goo-goo!"

The cause for this disease is attending Halloween events that involve cute kids in costumes, very much like the "Halloween Masquerade for Little Spooks" held on Oct. 21 at Dreamtown, Robinsons Place Manila. Mwahahaha!

TUNINUNINU. Here's a istraight fom the Twilight Zone

OK, that was. . . weird. Ha-ha-ha. Anyway, this is what really happened. More than 50 kids participated in a mall-wide trick or treat adventure in Robinsons Place Manila. And when we say mall-wide, we mean like, MALL-WIDE!

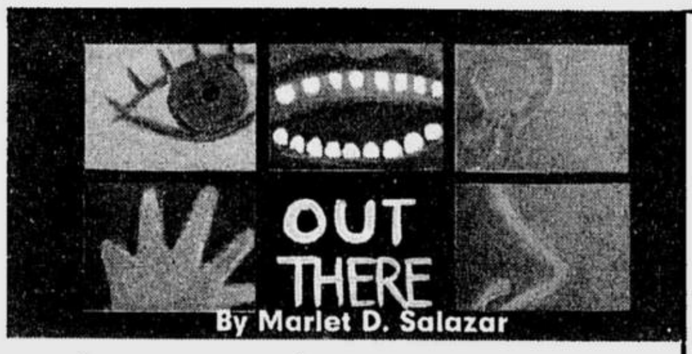
A lot of stores inside RPM participated by giving out candies and little trinkets to kids who joined in on the fun.

By the way, some of the sponsors were Jack and Jill (yeah, makers of those yummy chips), California Manufacturing, London Layer Cake, Buma Trading, Knorr Cup-a-soup, Lactum, Nips and many more.

Hel-lo! It took them and hour and a half before returning to Dreamtown with their pumpkins overflowing! After which they had their program involving games and ooh! My favorite, the costume judging! I saw Cleopatra, Jungle Girl, a vampire, an alien, Taz, a tiger, an angel and lots of monsters and ghouls!

I also spotted the cutest bumblebee and two of the Powerpuff Girls. Congrats to the winners of the Face Painting category, Reden Quinto and Anna Katerina Chan. Scariest Costume goes to Jayson Guttierez and Erica Chua. Finally, the Spooky Cute Costume goes to Paolo Steven Santos and Michelle Saquing. Y'all look so cute and scary! Needless to say, everyone had oodles of fun and thanks to the people like Ms Anabelle Gapit, Ms Vina Bautista and the kid-loving crew of Dreamtown, and their sponsors, this whole thing has turned out to be a really Boo-tylicious event. So if you weren't there this year, make sure to check it out next year. Happy Halloween! Bwahahaha!

SPACE BABY and pumpkin girl are all set for trick or treat.



Got something for Out There?
Send us the info <u>two weeks in advance</u>. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Workshop

WRITING. Improve your writing skills, join the Creative Writers Group workshop. Today, learn how to write for magazines and feature writing. And tomorrow, you'll learn techniques on fiction writing. It will be held at Earthlite, 4th floor, C.O.D. Department Store Bldg., Cubao, Quezon City. For details call up 417-1521 or text 0919-7405199.

Contest

EARTH-FRIENDLY STORIES. Last call for young writers! Join the 8th RCBC Kuwentong Kalikasan Katha ng Kabataan contest. Open to elementary students who have a knack for writing short stories. Make sure that it's about how to save the environment. Your story can be written in Filipino or English. Get your entry forms from any DECS office, RCBC branches and schools. Prizes include, P30,000, a scholarship package worth P25,000 and a trophy. The winning stories will be printed in the "RCBC Nature Stories Book 9." Winning schools will also receive P20,000, while Filipino/English teacher will each receive P5,000. Hurry deadline is on Nov. 16! For more info call 894-9479, 878-3344 and 894-9000 local 2711 and 2730.

Activities

WATER EVERYWHERE. Experience exciting ways to learn more about water. Yes, that thing which occupies 75 percent of the Earth. In the one-day seminar "Gift of Nature: A Water Celebration," learn how to use water properly, conserve and the correct disposal of wastewater. It's not just a sit-in lecture, participants will be asked to fetch water from a lagoon, watch and feed big and colorful garden fishes originally cultured by the Chinese and Japanese called *kois*, and walk under a mini-waterfalls. Inform you teachers and parents now for this fun event. "Gift of Nature: A Water Celebration," is set on Nov. 11, 1 p.m. at the Orchidarium and Butterfly Pavilion, Rizal Park, Manila, and sponsored by the Clean and Green Foundation and Center for Environmental Awareness and Education. For details call up, 527-6378 and 899-5660 or send email to c&gfi@epic.net and info@ceae.org.

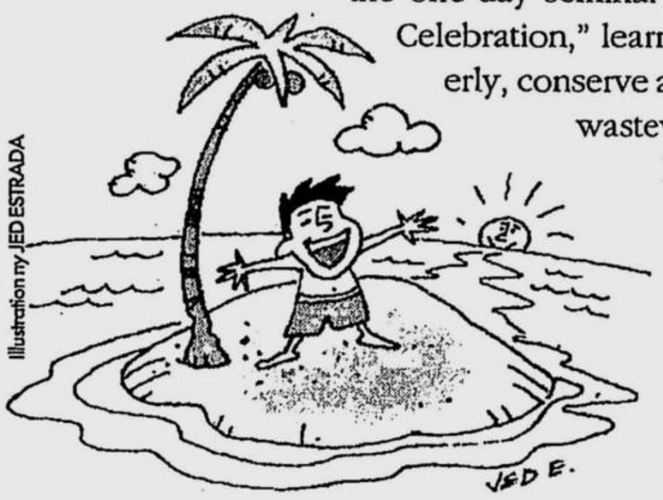


Illustration by JED ESTRADA

FABLES AND PARABLES. Watch Trumpets' presentation of "Fables and Parables" at the Cinema 1, 6th Level, Shangri-La Plaza Mall on Nov. 17-18 at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Tickets are priced at P150 and you can call up 633-5010, 633-4378 or 636-2842 or visit Trumpets office at 6th Level, Parking Area beside Powerdance, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Edsa corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City. Or send an email to trumpets@compass.com.ph

RED CROSS. The tragedy that befell New York served to highlight the immense value of international Red Cross organizations in each country where they maintain a presence. With its governor, Ms Rosa Rosal, PNRC is at the forefront of blood donations and relief distributions during floods, fires, and other disasters. The PNRC continues to solicit donations of blood, cash and kind at all times. If you want to donate call 527-8384, it's open all day and night.

Now on Video

CLASSIC FAIRY TALE. You can watch the first ever full-length animation movie at the comforts of your home. "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" is now available on VHS, VCD and DVD in leading video shops. There are added treats for the launch: Exciting prizes are in store when you buy a copy in the Pick your Lucky Dwarf section. Plus, have a souvenir photo with Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs mascots at selected shops. There'll also be an inter-school chorale competition with grade school choirs as they imitate musical scenes from the movie on Nov. 10 at the Atrium of SM Megamall. Grab your copy now!

Cable Picks

FELINES AND POOCHES ON ANIMAL PLANET. Get up close with our dear furry pals as they show extraordinary talents this week on Animal Planet.

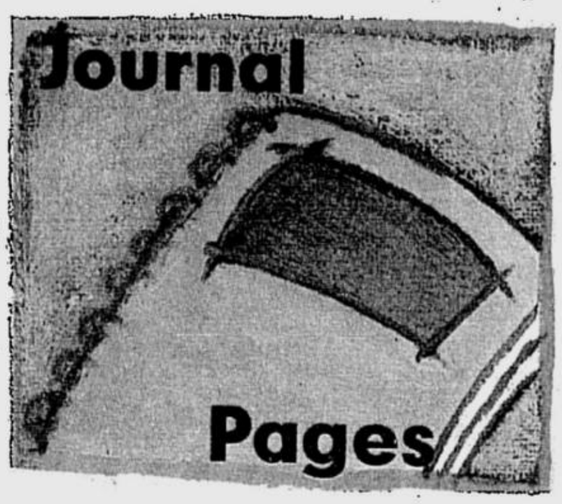
● Experience a day in the life of show cats, follow the history of human's relationship with cats and profiles of felines as daring heroes. Have a look at dogs that can detect skin cancer, lung cancer and heart attack. Catch all these on **"Paws and Claws"** from Nov. 5 to Nov. 9 at 9 p.m.

● Each episode of "K9 to 5" features three dogs, their owners and their life's work, showing viewers that these precious pups can be more than just best friends. "K9 to 5" airs every Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

SHOWS ON NGC. Check out this week's schedule of shows at the National Geographic Channel.

● The ozone layer is in grave danger. As scientists try to find ways to repair it by the middle of this century, they didn't realize that the ozone-friendly alternatives are contributing to the global warming menace. Find out more at **"NGC's Earth Report: Race to Save the Sky"** tomorrow at 6 p.m.

● Who or what are animal engineers? Well, they are creatures who seem to inspire world's finest inventions. Imagine the world of micromechanics is inspired by the agility of a fly? Or a lobster inspires a Mars rover? Find out how scientists study the parallelism of man-made discoveries to the natural world on **"Animal Engineers,"** Nov. 5 at 8 p.m.



The Best Beach in the Philippines

BY SAMANTHA PALOU

EVERY year, my family has an outing. This year we went to a beach called Pagudpud at the northern edge of Luzon. We stayed in the resort Saud. The sand in Pagudpud is very white. The sea is calm and there are no jellyfish to make you itch. There are a lot of shells on the shore there.

We visited the Patapat Viaduct. There is a waterfall there called the Mabogabog Falls. You can swim to the falls and feel its current push against you.

There is also a spring that you can drink from which comes from the Mabogabog Falls. In the town of Adams, there is a river with a small cliff to jump from. The current brings you to the other end of the river.

There is also a hanging bridge that is long and fun to cross. On the way to the hanging bridge and river, there is a beautiful scenery of valleys and trees.

As our four-day vacation ended, we passed a lot of cities like Vigan. They have the famous bagnet or speacially roasted pork and Spanish houses.

We also passed a place called Bangar which is famous for wearing cloths of all kinds. The trip to Pagudpud was very tiring as it took eight hours from Baguio and 13 hours from Manila. You may also use a plane to go there which takes an hour. But we had lot's of fun and I smile when I remember it.

ILLUSTRATION BY JED ESTRADA

Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!

Speaking out

DEAR Editor,

Thanks a lot for printing my letter about JI and anime! My family, friends and even teachers liked reading it a lot. It's great to speak up and share my thoughts with other people.

We all must love our country. Despite our problems and the bad reputation our country sometimes has, we must always remember that we are Filipinos. Every nation has its own identity—

PAMELA MARIE QUIZON,
Miriam College High School

JED ESTRADA

Junior INQUIRER

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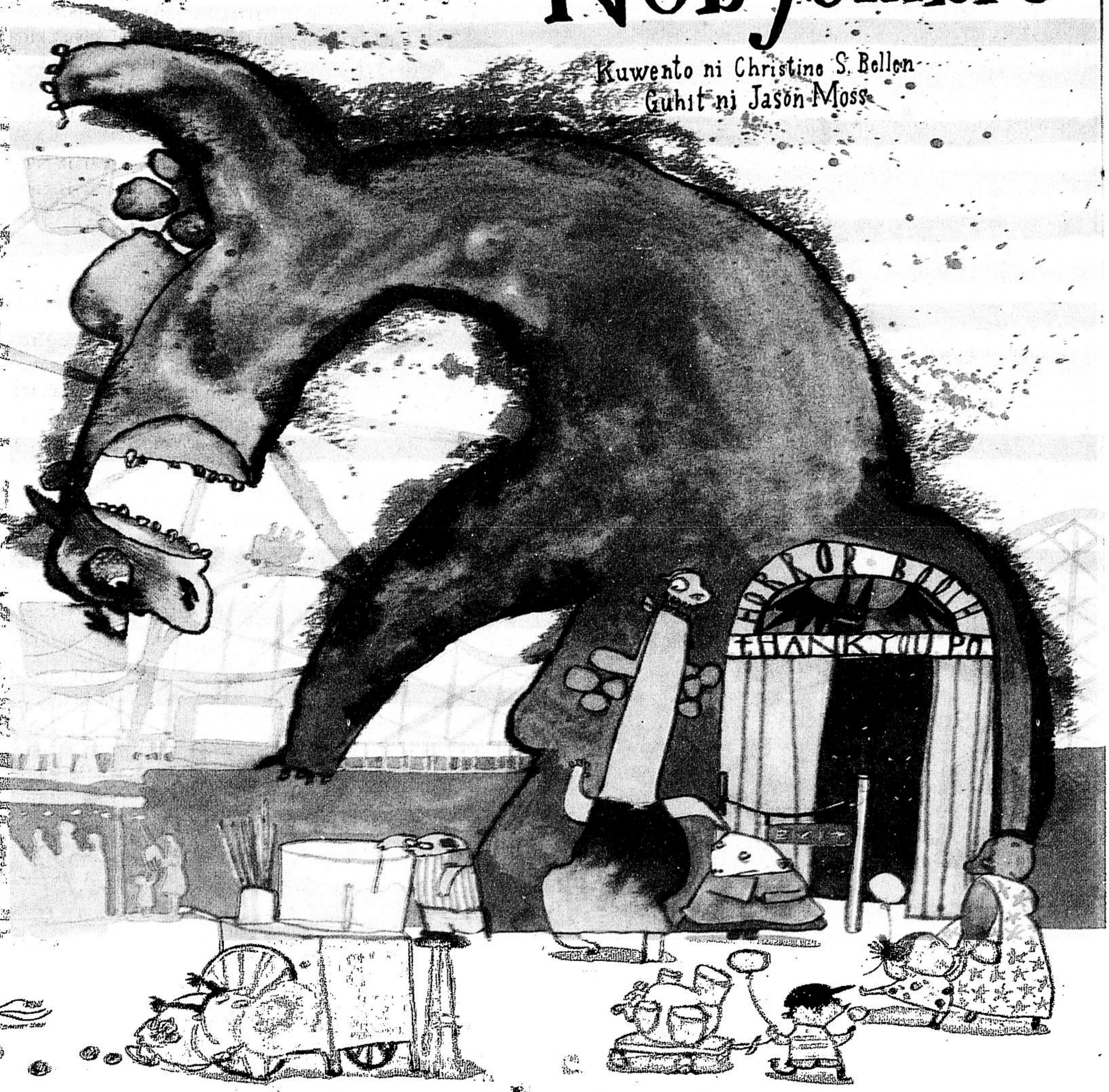
FOR By KIDS

Madugong Nobyembre

Kuwento ni Christine S. Bellen
Guhit ni Jason Moss



Bakit namumutla ang mga taong lumalabas sa bahay ni Aling Elena?
Type nga ba niya ang dugo ni Mang Kanor?

NANINIWALA ka ba sa bampira? Sabi ni lola, kapag ganitong Nobyembre at Araw ng mga Patay, lumalabas ang sari-saring aswang.

Hindi mo mahahalata. Minsan sila'y mukhang tao. Minsan ay mukhang hayop. Madalas na nagpapakita sila sa mga bata. Lalo na sa mga batang naglilikot at pagala-gala sa loob ng sementeryo.

Marami na raw nabiktima. Kung mahilig kang kumuha ng mga upos ng kandila para gawing bola, naku! Mahilig ang mga bampira sa ganon! May mga batang nawawala na lang at natatagpuang tulala. May kagat sila sa leeg. Alam mo na ang hitsura nuon. Parang ibinaon na dalawang matatalas na ngipin. Nakakatakot.

Kaya tuwing Nobyembre tulad nito at umuuwi kami sa probinsya nina nanay, hindi ako naglilikot sa loob ng sementeryo. Lagi akong tahimik. Tinatalasan ko na rin ang pakiramdam ko.

"

Sabi ng mga kalaro ko, aswang daw si Aling Elena. Mag-isa kasi itong nakatira sa isang kubo sa gitna ng bukid. Mas madalas daw itong lumabas tuwing gabi. Marami ring mga taong nagpupunta sa kubo nito. Kapag lumabas doon ay nanghihina at namumutla.

Maganda si Aling Elena. Pero siya ang pinakaiiwasan ko sa mga kaibigan ni Nanay. Kahit pa laging ibinibida ni Lola na masarap daw itong magluto ng paobrito kong suman at dinuguan. Ngayon nga, nagdadalawang-isip na ko kung paborito ko pa nga ang mga ito. Lalo na ang dinuguan.

Minsan ay hindi namin siya naiwasan. Kasama ko ang mga kalaro ko sa perya. Pumasok kami sa Horror Booth. Nandoon si Aling Elena. Nakangiti siya sa aming lahat. Namutla kami sa takot. Buti na lang, naalala kong magbulsa ng bawang na pinitpit ni Lola para sa adobo. Takot ang mga aswang sa bawang. Ha! Hindi nga lumapit sa amin si Aling Elena. Pero narinig namin nang kausapin nito si Mang Kanor. Ang katulong ni Padre Simon sa simbahan.

"Ano ba ang type ng dugo mo, Kanor?" tanong rito ni Aling Elena.

Naku, type raw niya ang dugo ni Mang Kanor! Nagtakbuhan kami at nagsumbong kay Padre Simon. Ngunit hindi kami nito pinaniwalaan.

Nang gabing iyon, hindi ako makatulog. Nagtalukbong ako ng kumot nang patayin ni nanay ang ilaw sa kuwarto. Kahit pawis na pawis ako. Pinulupot ko sa aking leeg ang mahaba kong buhok. Mabuti 'yon. Kapag dumating ang bampira, hahawiin muna niya ang aking buhok bago ako kagatin. E 'di magigising ako at makakasigaw.

Kinabukasan, dinalaw namin ni Nanay si Aling Elena. Panay ang kubli ko sa palda ni Nanay. Pinisil ni Aling Elena ang pisngi ko.

"Naku, ang lusog-lusog ng batang ito!" sabi ni Aling Elena.

Bigla akong nanlamig. Naalala ko ang kuwento ng mga kalaro ko. Naalala ko si Mang Kanor. Ano kaya ang nangyari sa kanya? Pambihira kasi si Padre Simon, ayaw maniwala sa amin. Pinagtawanan pa kami nito.

Lumayo nang kaunti si Aling Elena kaya't kinalabit ko si nanay. Kailangan na niyang malaman. Nagulat ako nang buksan ni Aling Elena ang ref. Nanlaki ang mga mata ko nang masilip ko ang maraming mapupulang likidong nakabote.

Napalunok ako. Baka ipainom sa amin na parang coke. Hinihila ko si Nanay pauwi nang biglang isinara ni Aling Elena ang pinto ng ref. Nanlisik ang mga mata nito. Parang mas uhaw siya kaysa amin.

"Kumusta na ang pagvovolunteer mo sa Red Cross?" sabi ni Nanay.

Red Cross? Sa loob-loob ko.

Volunteer worker pala si Aling Elena ng Red Cross. Doon siya nakadestino sa probinsya nina Nanay. Nangangalap siya ng mga malulusog na dugo. Ipinadadala ito sa iba't ibang lugar para maisalin sa mga taong maysakit. Saka lamang nawala ang panlalamig ko. Mahaba ang kuwentuhan nila ni Nanay. Sayang-saya ako nang hainan kami ng suman ni Aling Elena. Gabi na ng umalis kami sa bahay niya.

Sa daan, nakasalubong namin ang mga kalaro ko. Gulat na gulat sila dahil galing kami sa kubo ni Aling Elena.

Ngumiti ako at sinabing:

"Bukas, punta tayo kay Aling Elena". Ikukuwento ko sana ang masarap na suman, pero kumaripas na sila ng takbo.

*Si **Christine** ay miyembro ng Pambansang Unyon ng mga Manunulat sa Pilipinas (PANULAT) at Kuwentista ng mga Tsikiting (KUTING).*
*Si **Jason** ay isang magaling na pintor. Ang kanyang mga bagong iginuhit na libro na makukuha sa mga bookstores ay: "Magnificent Benito and His Two Front Teeth," "Fish for Two," at "Huff and Grudge."*

Grade One, Rank One

Studying is a breeze for 7-year-old Michelle Joaquin

BY MAE ASTRID TOBIAS

WHEN you look at 7-year old Michelle Joaquin's report card, you will surely be impressed. Her grades in Science is 92.36; in English 92.08; in Filipino 94.88; and in Math 94.88. Her average is 93.29 for the first trimester.

With grades like these, it's no wonder this Grade 1 student ranks first in her section in St. Paul College.

What's Michelle secret? Routine and discipline. As soon as she gets home from school, she works on her assignments immediately. She only gets to watch her favorite shows after 4 o'clock when she is already done with homework. She also goes to bed at 8:30 because the next day she has to wake up at 5:15.

"Michelle has always been good in school," says her mother, Nina, "When she started nursery in a nearby Montessori, she either ranked first or second." Even her teachers say that Michelle participates actively in class.

But Michelle likes to relax too. When she is not studying, she likes to draw, color and answer activity books and make handcrafted stuff. On other days, Michelle goes swimming with her cousins.

Studying hard really pays off. For all her hard work, Michelle got a bike which she uses to zip around her village, visiting friends and just enjoying the breeze.

A-OKAY. A full-proof study habits is Michelle's secret to great grades. ROGER CARPIO

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're `Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!

Kid 'r' rrific
nomination form

I nominate: _____

Age: _____

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

_____

She/he lives at

_____

and studies at

_____

Her/his contact number is:

_____

Sender's Name:

_____

Sender's Age & School:

_____, _____

Sender's Address:

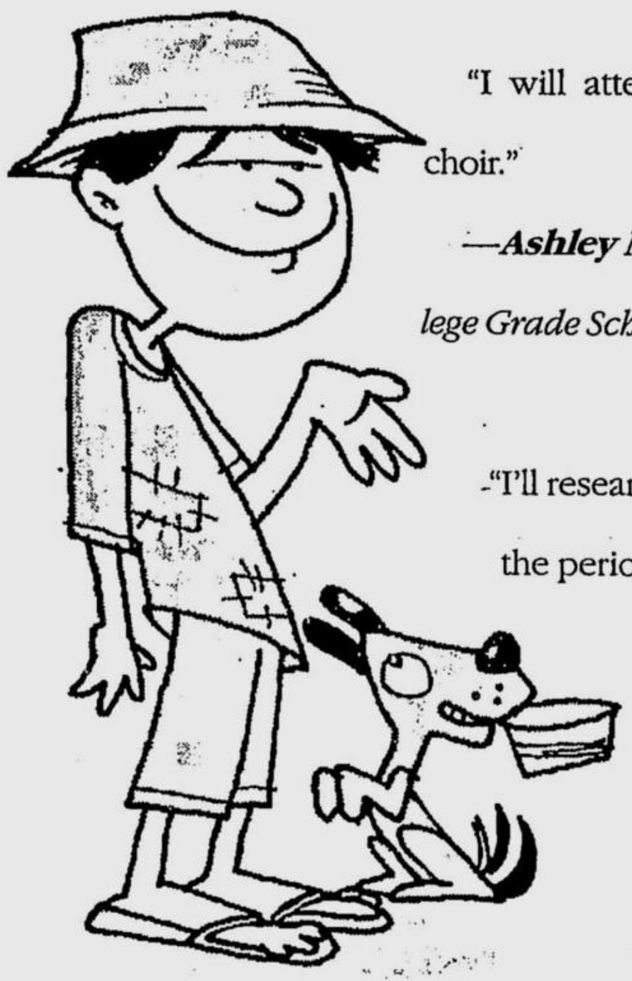
_____

Sender's Contact No.

_____

Give me a break

(from page 1)



"I will attend the sportsfest of our choir."

*—**Ashley Marquez**, 12, Miriam College Grade School*

"I'll research on chemistry and study the periodic table."

*—**Eiros Bandarlipe**, 11, Colegio San Agustin*

"I am going to do my best to make the biggest wax ball out of candle wax at the Chinese Cemetery on All Saint's Day. Last year, I made a wax ball 20 inches long in diameter. This time I'll try to make it to 30!"

*—**Roy Erwin S. Dela Cruz**, 11, Claret School of Quezon City*

"Go to our province. Have a great party with my cousins."

*—**Sheela Bautista,** 12, Miriam College Grade School*

"I will ask my parents to take me to a peaceful place, a place where there is no chaos. And of course, I would love to attend the Cosplay on Nov. 5."

*—**Marian Liana dela Cruz**, 12, Miriam College Grade School*

"I'll go sleepovers in my cousin's house. But won't be a sleepover for I won't sleep. I'll only go for computer games."

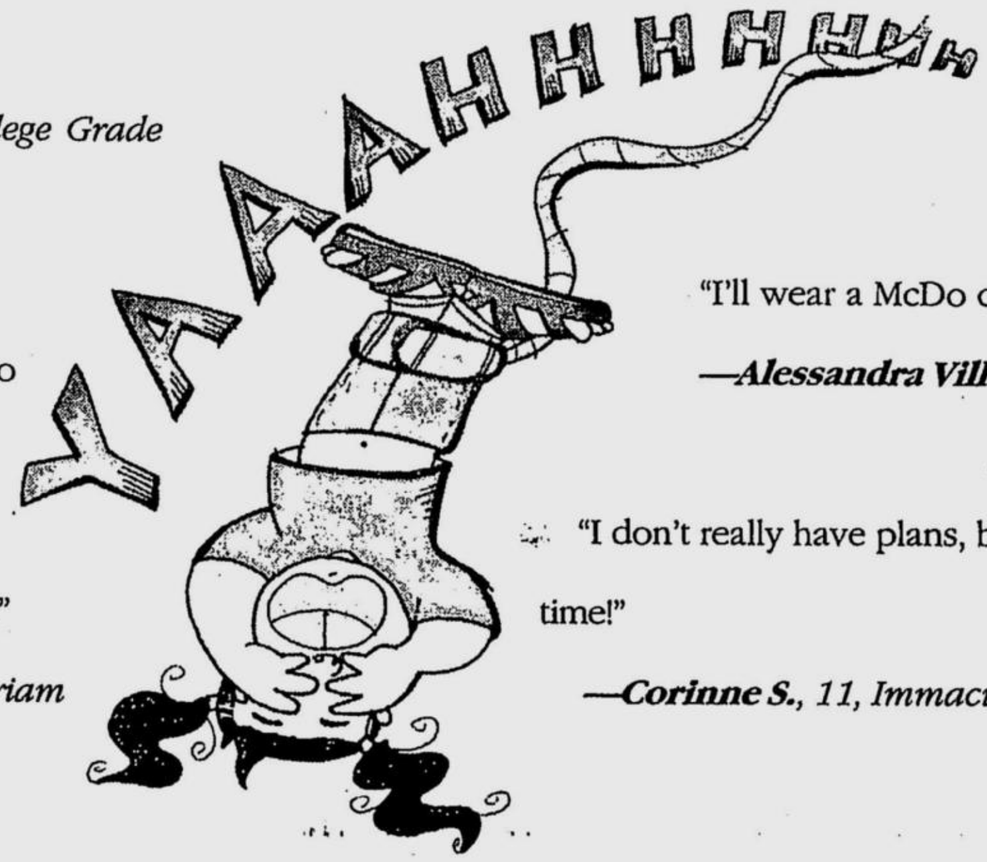
*—**Ige Camara**, 11, Paref-Southridge School*

"I will go to nice places like Baguio and see the sights there. And of course, have fun."

*—**Isabel Yap**, 8, Miriam College Grade School*

"Right now, I'm building a house of cards. I have mixed up decks of cards that I use to build the house. It's not very big and I still don't know how it will turn out. I've been working on it for over a day now, but at least it hasn't toppled over yet!"

*—**Dardsie Abriol-Santos**, 12, UPIS*



"I'll wear a McDo costume the whole break!"

*—**Alessandra Villacorte,** 11, Colegio San Agustin*

"I don't really have plans, but I am looking forward to all that free time!"

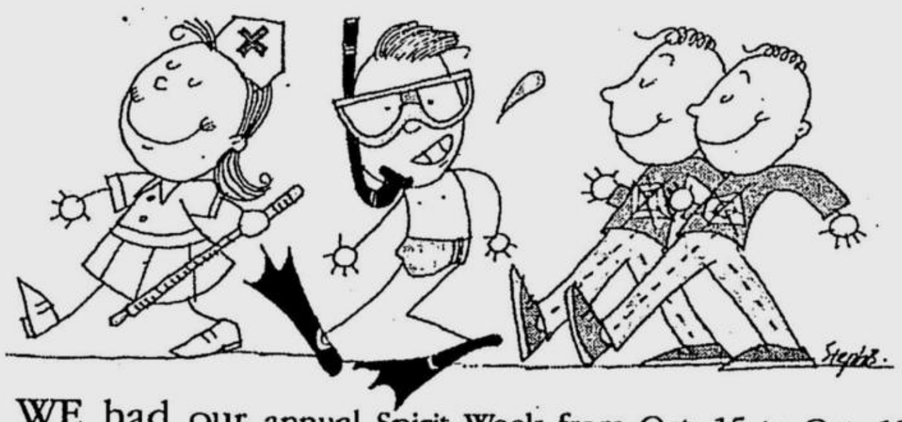
*—**Corinne S.**, 11, Immaculate Conception Academy*

Any news from YOUR SCHOOL?

Young campus journalists can fax their typewritten articles to JI at 897-4793 up to 94. Include your name, school and contact number and be sure to write ATTENTION: JUNIOR INQUIRER on top of your article. See YOUR news articles on the Junior Inquirer!

MOM, PUT AWAY MY UNIFORM, ITS SPIRIT WEEK!

BY ANDREW CIE
JI CORRESPONDENT
BRENT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



WE had our annual Spirit Week from Oct. 15 to Oct. 19. Spirit Week was a week we could dress up in different clothes instead of wearing our uniform. The purpose of Spirit Week was to show our school spirit, and to cheer for our sports teams.

Monday's theme was "black and white day." One girl in middle school wore what looked like a wig with white hair. During lunchtime, my schoolmates lined up to see who had the best outfit or who displayed the best school spirit. The student council did the judging. The winner got a homework pass. Wow! Now he can use the pass to skip doing a homework in any subject!

Tuesday's theme was, "What I want to be when I grow up!" In my bus I saw three people who dressed up like army men. One person dressed up as someone who was a member of a S.W.A.T. team. One of my classmates came in as a nurse. Some people wanted to be professional athletes like swimmers and soccer and baseball players.

On Wednesday, people dressed up like each other. It was multiplicity or twin day! There were two people who dressed up in their baseball uniform; some people wore the same colors or designs. Two other people had spider web designs on their shirt. The winners, who received homework passes, were six kids who had the same shirts and pants. They all even had the same wallets and handcuffs on their bags.

On Thursday, we concluded the Spirit Week by wearing our house shirt. Every student and teacher at Brent belonged to one of the three houses, Gold, Emerald or Azure. At the end of the day we had our house rally in the gym. The students in the same houses assembled at their assigned area. If you were there, you would have seen the different house colors grouped together. The teachers then introduced us to our house captains. We all cheered for our houses and rallied for our varsity teams followed by claps and shouts! Hip hip hooray!

Computer Spell Check

TIME again to find out how good a speller you are–with computer-related terms in this case. In each number, pick the word you think is correctly spelled. A score of 11 or more is the mark of a master speller.

1. ☐ byte	☐ bite	☐ bythe
2. ☐ moddem	☐ modem	☐ modemm
3. ☐ ciberspace	☐ syberspace	☐ cyberspace
4. ☐ word procesor	☐ word prosessor	☐ word processor
5. ☐ motherboard	☐ matterboard	☐ madderboard
6. ☐ microcheap	☐ microchip	☐ mycrochip
7. ☐ curser	☐ coursor	☐ cursor
8. ☐ floppy disk	☐ flappy disk	☐ fluffy disk
9. ☐ chit room	☐ chut room	☐ chat room
10. ☐ multitaxing	☐ multitasking	☐ multitracking
11. ☐ gleetch	☐ gleatch	☐ glitch
12. ☐ multimedian	☐ multimedia	☐ multimedium
13. ☐ peripheral	☐ periperal	☐ periphiral
14. ☐ netizen	☐ nettizen	☐ neatizen
15. ☐ hypertext	☐ hipertext	☐ highpertext

Answers :

1. byte
2. modem
3. cyberspace
4. word processor
5. motherboard
6. microchip
7. cursor
8. floppy disk
9. chat room
10. multitasking
11. glitch
12. multimedia
13. peripheral
14. netizen
15. hypertext

Ratings :

superbrain!
14 – 15

excellent!
11 – 13

good!
8 – 10

Iggy Ipis
BOOK REVIEWS

Mermaids, Teeth and Waiting for Your 'Sundo'

PHEW! This tireless, jet-setting cockroach has gone on a lot of adventures lately. Mermaids, enchanted swans, a boy who bravely battles against a physical deformity and a cute little girl with an overactive imagination—these are but a few characters I met during my long but exciting journey.

"Once Upon A Time" is Fran Ng's retelling of Han Christian Andersen's well-loved stories. I can't help but shed a few tears with tales such as "The Little Mermaid" and "The Little Match Girl." My heart also went out to the poor little ugly duckling. On the other hand, I was really amused at the emperor who loved clothes so much that he paid a very dear price for his vanity. Tsk, tsk. Talk about embarrassing.

Arnel Mirasol's very detailed illustrations helped a lot in capturing the magical spirit of these stories—I especially liked the one with the little mermaid talking to his father, the mer-king. Sigh, I remember those nights when Ma used to read me fairy tales till I fall asleep.

"Magnificent Benito and His Two Front Teeth" by Augie Rivera takes place in the sleepy town of San Cristobal. A boy named Benito tries really hard to get rid of his two gigantic front teeth. Jason Moss illustrates very funny scenes in which Benito buys gazillions of candy in an attempt to rot his teeth and even went as far as tying them to a narra tree (and even to a train!) to pull them out. Benito tries all these so other people would stop seeing him as a freak and accept him as their friend. He fails in all his attempts, though. Fortunately, the surprise ending is enough to make me clap and cheer for Benito and his front teeth. It just shows that we should learn to use what we have to our advantage and love them for what they are.

Finally, Kristine Canon's **"Bakit Matagal Ang Sundo Ko"** is about a little girl who worriedly thinks of a lot of reasons why her mommy is late in fetching her from school. This girl has a really colorful imagination! Illustrations by Mariano Ching shows the little girl picturing her mother riding on a turtle, an elephant and even a big whale just to fetch her in time! Hmmm, I wonder why she didn't consider me, a super flying cockroach? I could have brought her mommy earlier than she expected, hee hee.

I really had a very fun-filled trip. I can't wait to meet a lot more interesting characters in my next adventures. Till then, kids. Ta-ta!

All books are available at our local bookstores.

THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

NOY GOES ROUND THE WORLD

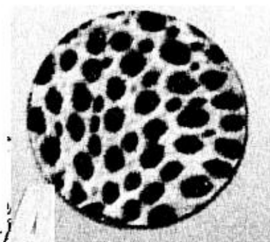
After arriving in Munich, a famous city in this country, we drove a few hours to Neuschwanstein. Here I am in front of Neuschwanstein Castle. Built in the 19th century by "Mad" King Ludwig III, it inspired the castle found in Disneyland.

WHAT COUNTRY IS NOY IN?

Write down all 5 countries he visits, then send your complete list to The Lunch Box, c/o JI. List ALL 5 COUNTRIES CORRECTLY and WIN A PRIZE!

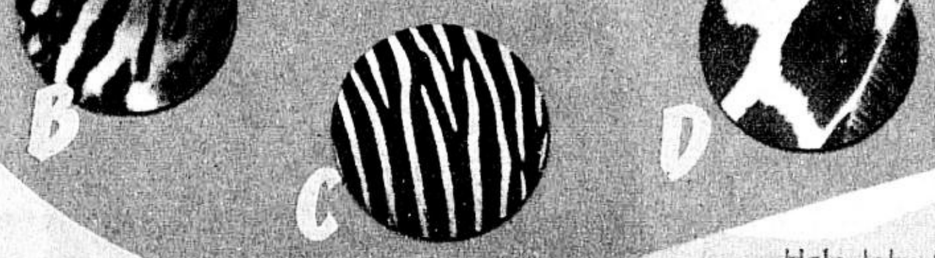
SEEK THE HIDE

Match the animals to their corresponding hides!



GIRAFFE ☐ ZEBRA ☐

CHEETAH ☐ TIGER ☐



Answers: A Cheetah; B Tiger; C Zebra; D Giraffe

WORDMATH

Help John figure out this word equation from his mathematician sister, Joan.

(-bl) + (- she) +

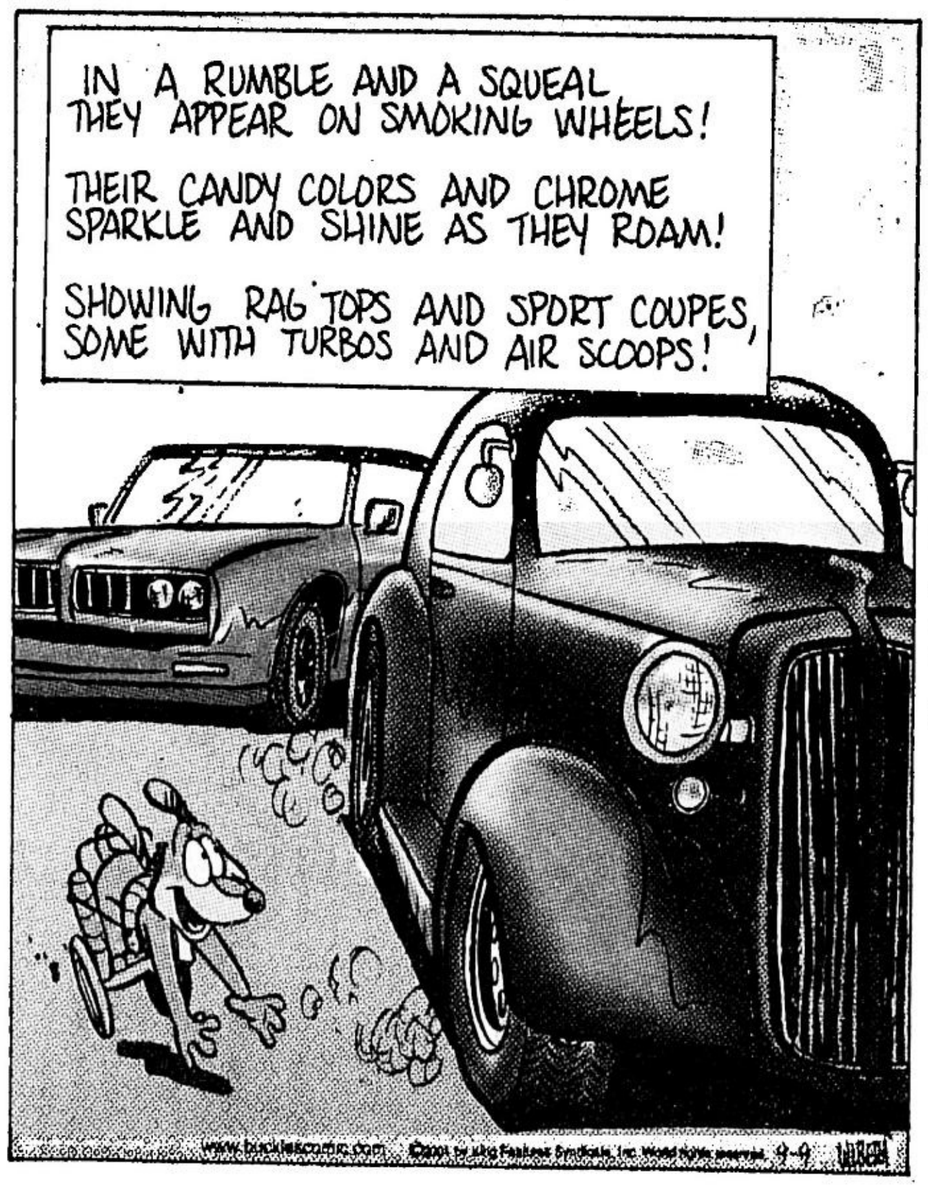
(- d) + t = ?

The secret word is...

The secret word is ELEPHANT.

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT



Wage demand 'anti-labor,' says Gloria

STORY ON PAGE A2

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: www.inq7.net

WHAT'S INSIDE

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- **Casino players screened** METRO / A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS
NOVEMBER 4, 2001 ★ 70 PAGES 6 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 329

US deports 2 Pinoys deemed biohazards

BY CHANDLER E. RAMAS III
Contributor

LOS ANGELES—After 30 hours of detention, two Filipino men held at the Seattle-Tacoma international airport on suspicion of being biohazard threats were deported

US DEPORTS/ A14

'I won't retire Mendoza'

THERE'S a "Gloria in your future," that's the English title of the President's TV program with its first telecast live from Baguio on Saturday. EDWIN BACASMAS

"ELLIOT NESS" is "too shy," President Macapagal describes PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza whom she praised for his integrity, not having been linked to crimes like kidnapping and drug trafficking. EDWIN BACASMAS

GMA may extend term of PNP chief to 4 years

BY CARLITO PABLO
AND PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo regards the chief of the Philippine National Police as the country's version of Elliot Ness, and she is not planning on retiring him in March.

The President yesterday said she might even extend the duty of Director General Leandro Mendoza, a 1969 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, to a full four-year term.

"I never said I'm going to retire Larry in March," she said in her TV-radio program "May Gloria ang Bukas Mo," which was aired live from Baguio City. "Theoretically I can extend a PNP chief beyond his (mandatory retirement age of) 56 years up to four years."

If Mendoza is to complete a four-year term, he will remain in service as the country's top cop until early 2004.

The President was explaining a statement she made to reporters during a visit to Boracay late last month that PNP Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. was next in line to Mendoza's post.

She said she was then only replying to questions in the context of the so-called "Black October" coup plot that involved alleged changes in the leadership of the PNP.

"People are putting words in my mouth," she said. "What happened was that I was informed that (Chief Supt. Reynaldo) Berroya was among those allegedly hatching the supposed coup because he wanted to replace Mendoza. But I told them that Berroya would not do that because he knows that Ebdane is next in line. That's the context of the reports."

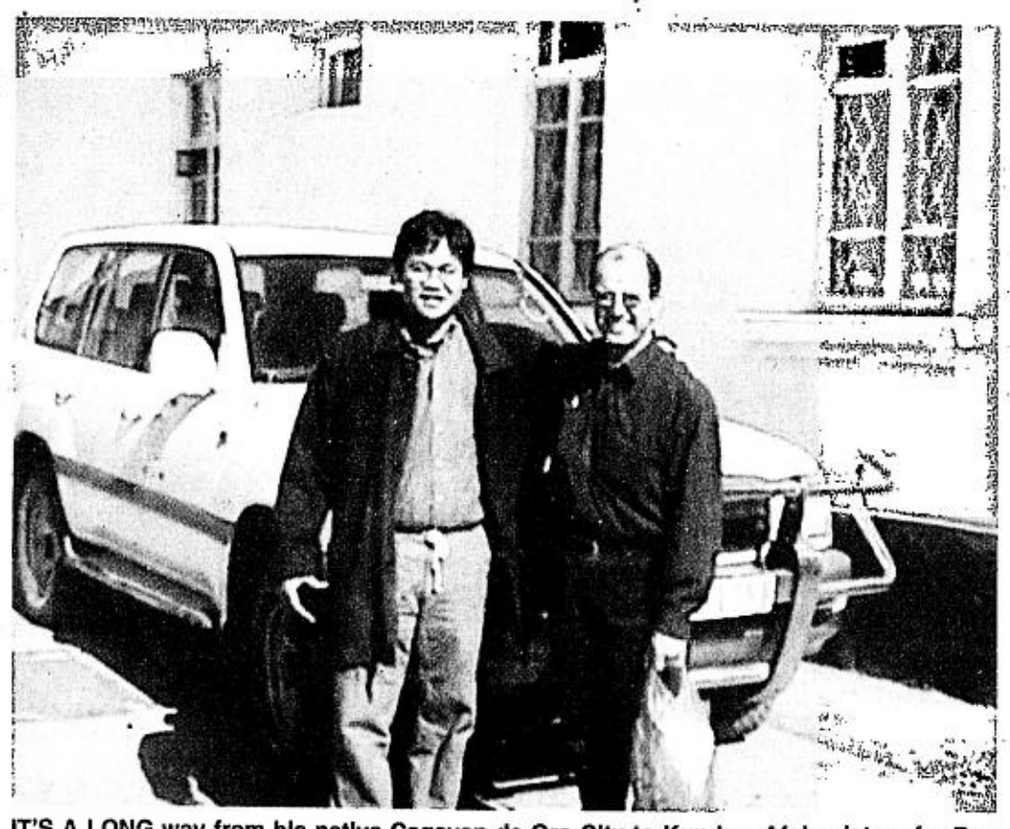
Critics of the administration earlier said that the President's announcement regarding Ebdane had made Mendoza a virtual lame duck and caused demoralization in the PNP. But Interior Secretary Joey Lina and other officials have denied this.

The President lavished praise on Mendoza, whom she described as "too shy."

"The people should see him as an Elliot Ness," she said, referring to the legendary lawman who sent Chicago Mafia chief Al Capone to

I WON'T/ A14

2 Pinoys: Up close and personal with Afghans



IT'S A LONG way from his native Cagayan de Oro City to Kunduz, Afghanistan for Rex Alamban (at left) who poses for a souvenir shot despite the Taliban's ban on photographs.

BY FE B. ZAMORA
INQ7 Section Editor

THE TALIBAN called them the "Philippine team," the only two non-Muslim Filipinos who worked among them right in the middle of intense fighting.

The average Afghan, whether a Talib or not, is just like your average Filipino, according to Rex Alamban, 32, a Filipino assigned to head the sub-office of the United Nations' International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the Afghanistan province of Kunduz, one of the areas now heavily battered by US bombing.

The other Filipino is Ferdinand Paredes, the manager of the two camps for Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) also in Kunduz, which is located in northern Afghanistan close to its border with Tajikistan. The two camps have a population of 30,000.

Despite decades of war and famine, "the Afghan people are very good natured, very hospitable, polite, friendly and gentle people who enjoy cracking jokes," said Alamban.

"It is easy to make friends with the ordinary Afghan," said Alamban, a native of Cagayan de Oro City.

According to Alamban, hundreds of beggars, most of them women, swarm the streets and highways. Riots in refugee camps are

2 PINOYS/ A5

Ms Cheerful despite TV hassles

BY VINCENT CABREZA
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Getting away from it all really does wonders to one's disposition.

The famously short-tempered President Macapagal-Arroyo was Ms Cheerful despite a technical foul-up in the second telecast yesterday of

MS CHEERFUL/ A14

Whiz kids know their current events

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

"BOMBING Afghanistan will lead to nothing, and Osama bin Laden will probably just move to another country," said Ryan Tumbocon. At 10 years old, he spends his free time drawing and reading. He has an IQ of 141.

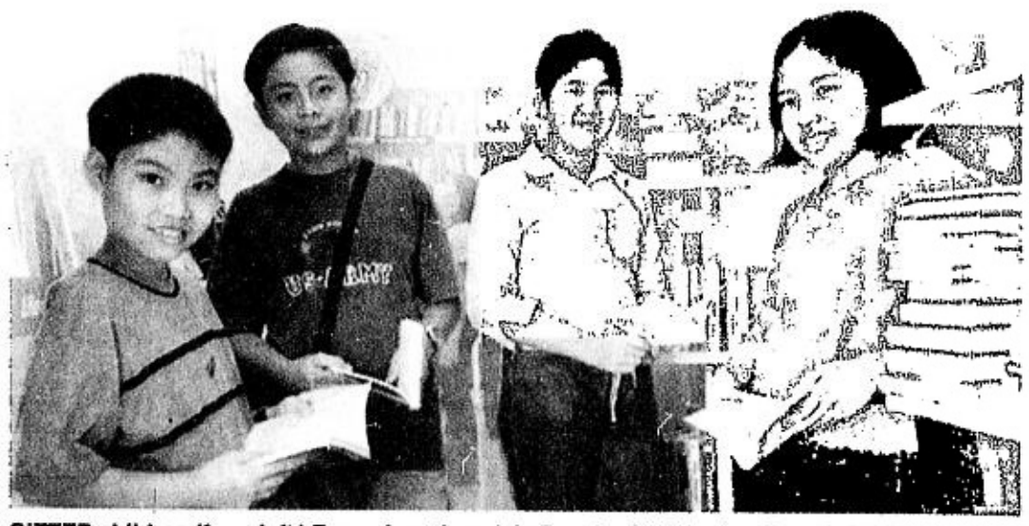
During an interview with the INQUIRER, Franz Jonathan De la Fuente also asked: "Why do countries have to go to war to solve their problems?"

But he is most curious to know just how old the world is. He started to read and speak when he was a year old.

These kids play "Counterstrike" and watch MTV, too. But they're not just like any other kid.

Books, newspapers, CNN and more books are what really fire up their rapidly developing but delicate minds. They have IQs as high as Albert Einstein's and possess special talents that do their families and schools proud.

WHIZ/ A14



GIFTED children (from left) Franz Jonathan dela Fuente, Christopher Ryan L. Tumbocon, Ma. Stesha Mikil Feria Jorge and Katrina de la Cruz Albano. JOAN BONDOC

Wage demand anti-labor–Gloria

BY VINCENT CABREZA
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Militant labor's demand for a P125 across-the-board wage increase was "anti-labor," President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

It would increase the prices of commodities and accelerate retrenchments and business shutdowns that would affect both wage and non-wage earners, the President said in her weekly television program "May Gloria ang Bukas Mo," which was telecast from the presidential mansion here.

"It is anti-labor because the statistics and projections of the Department of Labor and Employment show that many firms will retrench workers if this increase is approved," Ms Macapagal said.

It was her most direct criticism yet of a wage hike measure filed in the House of Representatives by the party-list group Bayan Muna.

In a very frank exchange with guest anchor, economist Solita Monsod, the President offered what she called her administration's "forward-looking" economic policies.

Monsod, who opened the program by encouraging the viewers to "pester" the President with phoned-in questions, by turns challenged and teased the notoriously short-tempered chief executive on the wage controversy and the government's practice of "milking" overseas Filipino workers to subsidize diplomatic operations.

"You never can tell, we might goad her into losing her temper," Monsod told viewers.

But Ms Macapagal did not bite, taking Monsod's teasing in stride.

Employment rose by 8.1 percent, or by 2 million jobs, this year compared to last year, she said.

From 27 million Filipinos employed in 2000, the employed sector grew to 29 million as of July this year.

"Many more people obtained jobs this year compared to those who lost jobs," she said.

Gloomy forecast

She said this uptrend negated the gloomy economic forecasts following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

In the same radio program, Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson II said the unemployment rate went down 1.1 percent from January to July this year, compared to the same period last year.

Imson said the current unemployment rate stands at 10.1 percent, compared to 11.2 percent in the first semester of last year.

"That means also that we have reduced our number of unemployed workers by as much as 139,000," Imson said.

He said the Macapagal-Arroyo administration was emphasizing job generation rather than wage increases as demanded by organized labor.

The regional wage board for Metro Manila recently approved a P30 wage increase which workers have denounced.

Monsod trained her sights on the Department of Foreign Affairs for not pursuing a recent Malacañang directive to open the Hong Kong consulate on weekends, to accommodate Filipino workers whose days-off fall on Saturdays and Sundays.

Imson explained that the directive would be applied next week as soon as the Hong Kong consulate finalizes its personnel overhaul.

Monsod also pressed Ms Macapagal for a review of OFW placement fees, as well as passport and travel fees, which, she noted, had been virtually subsidizing DFA operations abroad.

Ms Macapagal said she had planned on changing the system and had asked the DFA for details about the OFW fees.

She said the OFWs were the principal beneficiaries of her talks with Chinese officials and businessmen during her recent state visit to Beijing.

"I feel that we have widened the relationship between our country and the Chinese government that will bring us out of the well of poverty... Our new relations would energize our telecommunications, agriculture, housing, tourism and sports industries," she said in Filipino.

She said she had relayed to China her program for the Chinese-Filipino community here, and what that community means to the interest of the nation.

She said 10 agreements had been signed with Chinese businessmen that would strengthen and widen trade and investment ties with Beijing.

China had already contributed $100 million to beef up agricultural production in the country, she said. *With a report from Carlito Pablo*

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Pardon sought for Pinay in Brunei prison

BY D. PAZZIBUGAN

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN (via PLDT)—Philippine officials will seek pardon for a 50-year-old Filipina "Lorena Bobbit" who is serving life sentence here for a crime of passion.

Aurelia Gonzaga, a resident of Manila, was meted out the death penalty in 1999 for killing her Filipino boyfriend, a contract worker in Brunei, in January 1998.

Brunei's Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah commuted her sentence to life imprisonment during former President Joseph Estrada's state visit in 1999.

Philippine Ambassador Enrique Zaldivar said they have recommended that President Macapagal-Arroyo take up a possible pardon for Gonzaga when Bolkiah pays the Philippines another state visit.

Both sides are still arranging the state visit. Case records said Gonzaga smashed a television set on her boyfriend's head when he came home drunk late one night.

Afterwards she cut off his penis and threw it into a gutter.

Gonzaga surrendered to the Philippine Embassy the next day, before authorities discovered the crime.

She even showed the police the place where they were able to recover the victim's penis.

During the trial she claimed she was overtaken by jealousy and suspected that her boyfriend, who had a wife in the Philippines, was having an affair with a third woman.

American Lorena Bobbit made headlines several years ago for cutting her husband's penis supposedly to get back at his womanizing.

Her husband survived while she was convicted.

Zaldivar said Gonzaga is eligible for pardon because she showed good behavior while in jail.

Ms Macapagal, however, is not expected to bring up Gonzaga's case during her 15-minute bilateral meeting with Bolkiah today.

She arrives this afternoon in this oil-rich nation of 340,000 people for the 7th Asean Summit.

Zaldivar said they have "sounded off" their request for Gonzaga's pardon with the Brunei Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Eighteen other Filipinos are languishing in various jails in Brunei.

Six of them, including Gonzaga, are serving life sentence, for either murder or armed robbery.

Three were originally sentenced to die by hanging, but Bolkiah had been persuaded to commute their sentence to life imprisonment.

Two who were found guilty of gang robbery escaped death because they were minors. Two others who were found to have killed their young wards escaped death because it was proven they were mentally deranged.

Out of the 18 jailed Filipinos, eight were convicted or are undergoing trial for drug trafficking or drug possession.

The latest convicted Filipino is Bobby Torregoza, who was found guilty Nov. 27 last year of killing his Filipino girlfriend.

Instead of murder, he was found guilty of homicide because he surrendered to authorities.

Like Gonzaga, Torregaza claimed he was overtaken by jealousy. After the crime he escaped to Malaysia but, apparently overtaken by guilt, he surrendered to the police there.

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INTER-CHAMBER COURTESY

Senate may not probe Belmonte

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA

THE SENATE may not include Quezon City mayor Feliciano Belmonte in its ongoing investigation of the bribery angle in the telecommunications franchise bills, which were earlier vetoed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Sen. Blas Ople said Belmonte, as former speaker of the House of Representatives, can always invoke the inter-parliamentary principle or inter-chamber courtesy.

Ople told a press conference that the committee on transportation and communications chaired by Sen. Joker Arroyo, which is investigating the scandal will still have to resolve whether such doctrine can be waived to compel Belmonte to testify.

But chances are, he said, the Arroyo committee will uphold the doctrine of inter-chamber courtesy unless Belmonte voluntarily submits himself to the Senate inquiry.

Belmonte said he had "absolutely no interest" in the two telecommunications franchise bills whose veto he had reportedly asked the President to recall.

The Senate is looking into the allegation of former Malacañang appointment secretary Bing Rodrigo that First Gentleman Mike Arroyo took the bribe.

But in her last testimony before the Arroyo committee, Rodrigo admitted that her knowledge of Mr. Arroyo's involvement in the deal was based on hearsay.

Rodrigo pointed to DOTC consultant Malou Nuñez as the source of her information. Nuñez is reportedly in New Jersey.

The Senate had asked the Department of Foreign Affairs to help locate Nuñez in the US and to request her to return in order to testify.

Without the "missing link," Arroyo said, the Senate investigation cannot prosper.

Belmonte said he did not know the owners of the two telecom firms—Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc (PPCI) and APC Wireless Interface Network Inc. (APC)—which would have greatly benefited from the vetoes' recall.

"I do not know the owners of the two firms, I have not talked or been in contact with any of them," Belmonte said.

The Office of the Ombudman's fact-finding and investigation bureau (FFIB) had recommended the filing of graft charges against Belmonte for writing two letters to the President when he was speaker of the House.

In those letters, Belmonte asked the President to recall her veto of the franchise bills.

The bills would have given PCCI and APC license to control the telephone airwaves and the supply of equipment to telecoms companies, respectively.

US 'throwing the whole world into fire'

BY MA. CERES P. DOYO

PAX Christi USA, a chapter of the 14,000-strong international Catholic peace movement recently issued a strong statement that called for a halt in the US bombing campaign in Afghanistan as well as attacks against Christians in Palestine and Pakistan.

In the statement titled "Throwing the Whole World Into Fire" sent to the Philippine chapter, Pax Christi USA "condemn(ed) unreservedly the harassment, repression and killing of Palestinian Christians by the Israeli military and the attack on the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem during Sunday Mass on Oct. 21." Pax Christi International is active in more than 30 countries.

The statement was issued in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the US that killed more than 5,000 people and the US retaliatory attacks on the Afghanistan-based Al-Qaida network and the ruling Taliban. The US bombing aimed to flush out Osama bin Laden, suspected leader behind the terrorist attacks believed hiding in Afghanistan.

Pax Christi described Pakistan Catholic Bishop Joseph Coutts as "prophetic" when he said that it was not wise for the US to "throw the whole world into a fire" while targeting one person.

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DISMEMBERING A DEPARTMENT

Gloria chopping up agri–Angara

OPPOSITION Sen. Edgardo Angara yesterday sought the immediate return to the Department of Agriculture of three critical agencies that had been transferred to other government agencies.

Angara said the Senate will also investigate the removal from the DA supervision of the fourth agency, the Guarantee Fund for Small and Medium-Scale Enterprises (GFSME).

"It is already strike four in the DA. The chopping binge must stop," he said.

According to the senator, the government must return to the administrative and operational supervision of the DA the three agencies.

These were the National Food Authority, Philippine Coconut Authority and the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. or PCIC.

He also wanted to know the reason for the transfer of the GFSME to the Department of Trade and Industry.

"All these big words about program coordination and rationalization of functions cannot obscure the fact that the DA is being chopped into pieces," Angara, a former agriculture secretary, said.

He said the DA is the frontline agency that looks after a sector that employs more than 40 percent of Filipinos and it is too important to be dismembered and played around with," he said.

The NFA is now under the Office of the President while the PCIC is now an agency under the Department of Finance.

The latest assault against the DA was the presidential order to move the GFSME to the trade and industry department, he said.

Angara said that the PCA, NFA and PCIC are organizations "integral" to the job of the DA to modernize the agriculture and fisheries sectors and attain food security for the country.

The NFA should coordinate imports with production goals and targets and providing the buffer rice stock should be synchronized with field agencies of the DA.

Assistance to the battered coconut sector should be best left to the DA-coordination effort, said Angara.

The GSFME has the mandate to deliver credit to farmers, fishermen and food producers to bring these groups into the economic and credit mainstream.

"The Office of the President is already burdened by too many agencies under its supervision. There is no reason for the OP to annex more," he added.

ANGARA

Slain mayor buried

BY ROMULO O. PONTE
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

MABITAC, Laguna—That murdered Mayor Bernardo "Bombet" Sayarot of this town was much-loved was no longer in doubt yesterday as thousands of his grieving relatives, friends and constituents attended his burial at the Heritage Park, Global City, Makati.

The mayor was killed in an ambush last week instigated by still unknown persons. Two of the suspected ambushers, however, have been arrested and are undergoing questioning.

On Friday, the residents of Mabitac rode on more than six buses to the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati City, where the mayor's remains lay. They spent the entire night at the wake for Sayarot and attended the interment the following day.

Sarayot's untimely death also left behind more than 2,000 families and elderly people he was helping with their hospitalization needs, and about 85 promising young artists of the "Mabitac Cultural Ensemble," a group he had personally organized.

"They are apart from the thousands of residents who were beneficiaries of his multimillion-peso municipal projects," said Norberto I. Tubaña, Mabitac municipal administrator.

The late mayor, Tubaña told the INQUIRER, had inaugurated on Sept. 17 a P1-million mural in the town, marking the 101st anniversary of the Philippine forces' victory under Gen. Juan Cailles against the American invaders in the US-Spanish War.

Cailles was recognized by the people of Mabitac as the hero of their town.

The occasion was also the first time Sayarot's newly formed ensemble, composed of selected students from elementary to college, presented its program of acting, songs and dance that greatly entertained the audience, Tubaña said.

"The young people will surely miss their benefactor," he added.

Tubaña said Sayarot's wife, Eva, was still in shock over his killing.

Tubaña said the other big projects completed by the late mayor included the two-story national high school building in Paagahan and the covered court.

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It's age, Ani says of Erap ailments

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN

THE AILMENTS deposed President Joseph Estrada is complaining of, the ones he wants to go abroad to have treated, are no more than the illnesses of someone who is naturally aging.

In Cebu City, where he went for the Nov. 1 holiday, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said it was "normal for people growing old" to have ailments like Estrada's and this should not be the basis for allowing him to leave for abroad.

A member of the prosecution team that will try the plunder case against Estrada warned that the disgraced president might take advantage of a trip abroad to escape from his legal troubles in the Philippines.

Andrew Ammuyutan, chief of the Ombudsman's legal department, said the "risk of flight" exists in Estrada's case, given the fact that he faces the death penalty if he is found guilty of plunder.

Estrada's lawyer are set to file a petition with the courts to allow their client to seek medical help abroad for his swollen knees and blurring vision. Recent visitors to his Veterans Memorial Medical Center suite noted that the ousted leader's eyes were also swollen.

Desierto said Estrada's lawyer have no basis for their petition because his health problems are not life threatening.

"I think the courts will not allow (Estrada to leave) because what would be his reason? That he will die if he does not receive medical treatment abroad?" Desierto asked in Cebuano.

Ammuyutan said hospitals in the country have the facilities to treat Estrada, thus there is no need for him to leave.

"We have everything here. Whatever his illness, real or imaginary, it could be treated here," said Ammuyutan, who will prosecute Estrada before the Sandiganbayan.

Ammuyutan said the government would be taking a risk if allows Estrada to leave the country.

"Definitely, we will oppose (his request for treatment abroad) very strongly," Ammuyutan said.

"It's normal for people growing old to complaint about their eyes and knees. I, for example, have just undergone a cataract operation," said Desierto in a radio interview in Cebu Friday night.

Desierto noted that Estrada is in jail and is charged with a capital offense that is not bailable.

Even former first lady Imelda Marcos, he said, was not allowed to leave for abroad to seek medical treatment. "Mrs. Marcos was out on bail, but still the courts did not grant her petition," Desierto said.

Desierto said the prosecution is ready for the resumption of the hearings on the plunder case tomorrow before the Sandiganbayan Third Division.

He said he hopes the Estrada camp will stop trying to delay the proceedings. ***With Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***

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2 Pinoys: Up close and personal with Afghans

(From page A1)

common but are quelled by the Taliban who have no compunction of whacking trouble-makers with their AK-47.

On top of their seemingly unending misery, the Afghans are watched incessantly by the Taliban.

How Pinoys got there

In early 2001, Alamban, Paredes and other IOM workers arrived in Afghanistan to help 150,000 IDPs. In the Taliban-controlled Kunduz province alone, 30,000 IDPs were housed in two camps.

"We never had problems dealing with the Taliban. We were friends with the governor of Kunduz. If we needed armed escorts, we could get one or 20 at any one time," Alamban said.

The UN workers needed armed escorts against ambuscades and banditry who preyed on UN vehicles. "That's why we always travel in convoys," Alamban said.

But the Taliban "are extremely strict," he also said. "No photographs, no ringing of bells, no music, no going anywhere without the permission. No looking at the girls, not even at the ankles.

"The Taliban phenomenon is symptomatic of a traumatized society. Afghanistan, in much of its history, has always been subjected to all kinds of abuse . . . so that a very strong backlash from the villages, the ones worst hit by the abuse, is now being personified by the Taliban," Alamban explained in his e-mail to Inq7.net.

Alamban, Paredes and other nationalities working with IOM were evacuated from Kunduz a week before the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

The attacks from the Northern Alliance, the only opposition to the Taliban rule, were escalating. Once headed by Ahmadshah Massoud who had been described as "talismanic" with an "unparalleled military experience," the Northern Alliance or United Front repeatedly repulsed Taliban efforts to control the entire country. Massoud was killed by suicide bombers posing as journalists on Sept.9.

The frontlines of the fighting between the Taliban and the Northern Alliance were only about 60 km from the IDP camps.

Evacuation

Alamban and his UN group were temporarily evacuated to Mazar-e-Sharif, near Afghanistan's border with Uzbekistan, and eventually to Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Alamban said he and his fellow workers were celebrating Paredes' birthday at the UN staff house in Mazar when they heard reports on the attacks on New York and Washington.

"We knew what would happen next—evacuation. Late that night, we received instructions to evacuate Afghanistan. A UN plane would be arriving to pick us up the next morning. Other than our evacuation, there was nothing unusual in Mazar as well as in Kunduz," he said.

Favored news source

Alamban was already in Dushanbe when he opened INQ7.net—"my favorite source of news from the Philippines since I left the country." There, he read the story on the Taliban takeover of the IOM warehouse in Kunduz on the INQ7.net hourly updates on the Afghanistan war. Overcome by emotion, Alamban sent an e-mail to INQ7.net. He remembered his Afghan staff and wondered how they fared. "My feelings go to those gallant guys," he told INQ7.net.

When INQ7.net sent him a long list of questions, Alamban wrote back though a bit late. It turned out he was again assisting a burgeoning refugee camp in Tajikistan, and kept busy shopping for supplies.

"Dunshabe is a small *palengke* (market). It's getting into my nerves where I can find a supplier who can produce 2,000 winterized tents next week. We are running against time with the winter fast approaching. A lot of people can die in one night of snow given the conditions in the camps right now," he wrote.

Jesuit seminarian

Alamban was a Jesuit seminarian about to become a priest when he decided his vocation was in the secular humanitarian missions. He left the Jesuits in May 1998, and was invited by a friend to join the IOM in General Santos City.

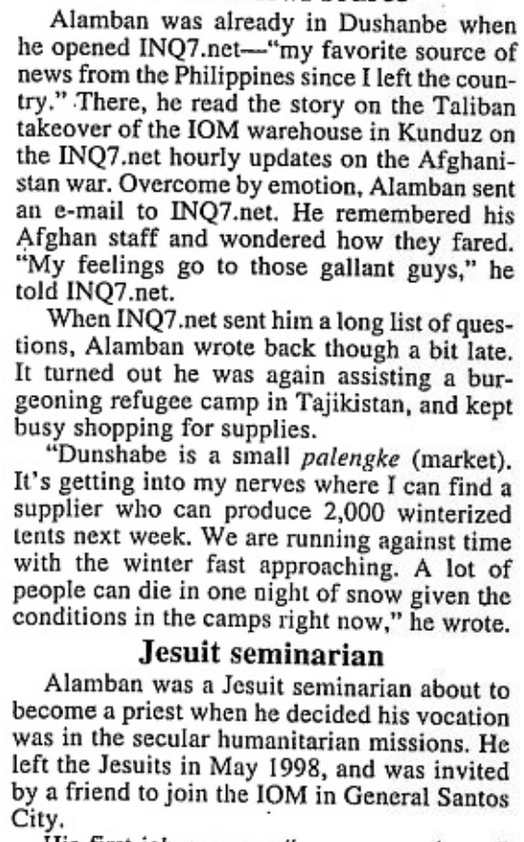
His first job was as a "peace campaigner," giving community development and job placement advice for former rebels in Davao del Sur, Saranggani, South Cotabato and parts of Sultan Kudarat. It was part of the confidence-building gestures between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) under the project Mobile Information Referral and Community Assistance Service (Mircas).

The project ended in late 1999. In the middle of a mild depression that goes with being jobless, Alamban said he got a call from a former Mircas program coordinator Mike Pillinger. "Mike was like saying to me, hey, we needed you yesterday, pack up your bags and come to Kosovo," Alamban said.

Kosovo

By early December 1999, in the middle of a severe Balkan winter, Alamban arrived in Kosovo. Paredes, a veteran of IOM reintegration programs in Africa, was in Kosovo ahead of him.

"Kosovo was almost totally in a shambles and opportunities for employment and reintegration were very minimal," Alamban wrote. From Community Development Specialist (CDS), Alamban was promoted to head one of the seven IOM sub-offices in Kosovo.



GETTY IMAGES

DETERMINED-LOOKING Northern Alliance fighter waits for the moment when the US bombing, now entering its fourth week provides them an opening to march to the Afghan capital of Kabul.

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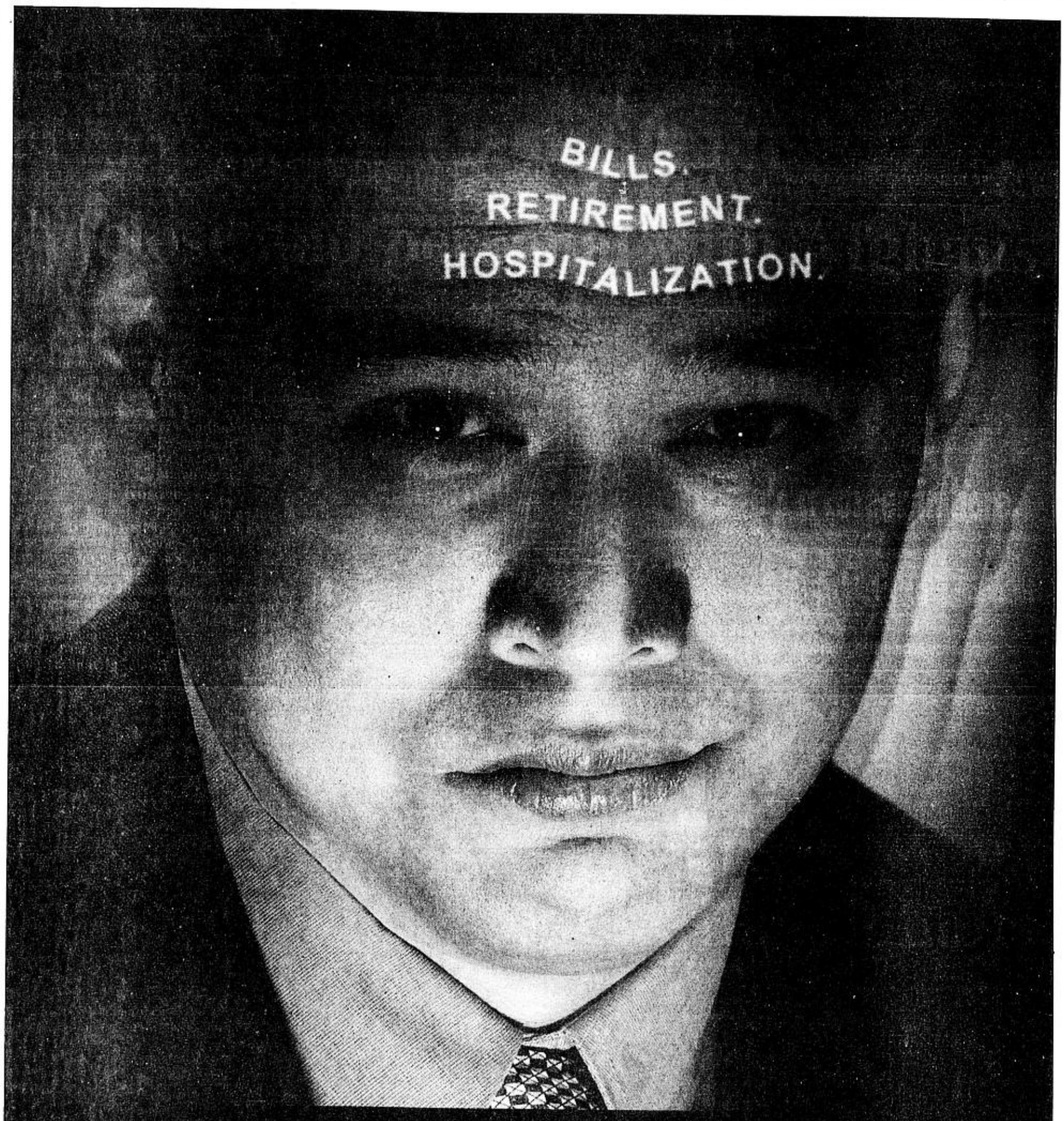

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Rumors

SHOULD the INQUIRER have published those stories in the last two weeks about rumors of yet another coup?

Government officials, from the President on down, suggest the answer is No. Perhaps "suggest" is too mild. The other Friday, asked at a press briefing to comment on "observations" regarding her administration's perceived "vulnerability" to coup plots, the President retorted: "You're the one who can answer that. Where are these rumors coming from? *Di ba* they're printed in the media and spoken on the radio? So you're the one who can answer that."

EDITORIALS

The presidential spokesperson, Rigoberto Tiglao, has taken the INQUIRER to task for effectively dignifying the rumors. When we ran a banner headline that read "Coup rumors persist," the former INQUIRER columnist and former INQ7 editor in chief lamented the choice of words and indeed the decision to run the story. "We cannot understand...why a newspaper would banner instead of facts what the headline itself claims are 'coup rumors,' why it would put as a subhead a serious but completely unsubstantiated charge by the opposition, why the meat of the story is a speculation..."

When we used the Stratfor advisory about reported coup plots as the main story for the front page, with "Take coup seriously" as the headline, Tiglao came back with a rejoinder. "Take facts seriously," he advised the INQUIRER. "The entire point of the article was just that: the coup rumors are hogwash. We rest our case," he said. He noted that on the Stratfor website, the analysis was headlined as "Coup rumors likely false."

We do not fault Tiglao, or indeed even the President, for rising in defense of the administration. When she blew her top in the Oct. 26 briefing, the President implied that media organizations were at least as much to blame for the rumors; this was, well, over the top. But we do not see in these or other statements any danger to free speech or the freedom of the press. By and large, and from the President on down, the officials of this administration have embraced these freedoms as their own.

And facts

WHAT we have here is an honest difference, not in opinion, but in editorial judgment.

The rumors of a coup attempt did make the rounds. The President did come home from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Beijing earlier than scheduled. She did confer with Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes at an ungodly hour. The leader of the Young Officers Union did undergo lengthy questioning at the Philippine National Police headquarters. He and the YOU founder did receive new assignments that will effectively isolate them in the provinces. And other sources, including the controversial whistle-blower former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson and even a spokesperson of the President's own political party, the Lakas-NUCD, did confirm receiving reports that military personnel had been courted to join yet another coup attempt.

That the recruitment was apparently unsuccessful is beside the point. The point is that the attempt to mount a coup, and the rumors that have surrounded it, have taken place. Period. In not taking the rumors lightly, the chief of staff of the Armed Forces, Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, struck the right note. "We are taking it seriously," Villanueva said. "We are on alert, our troops are on vigil. Any attempt to topple the administration from power will not succeed. Our soldiers are more disciplined now."

Journalistic self-discipline seems to be what Tiglao is worried about. He has warned the media against being used by any anti-administration destabilization campaign. He has a point. But the real issue is: When should coup rumors be reported in the media? Should the press wait for the tanks to roll down Chino Roces Bridge into Malacañang before running any coup stories? To raise the question is to answer it.

Privileged prisoners

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

WHENEVER I hear Erap and other politicians sighing about the poor, I'm not convinced. I know it's all hogwash. Their eye is not on the future of the *mahirap* but on the next election. Estrada was a great disappointment to his erstwhile idolaters. All the time they thought he was thinking of their welfare, he was building mansions for his paramours. The billions of pesos in his secret bank accounts belied his deep concern for the deluded poor who had catapulted him to power.

Estrada is not much different from other self-seeking politicians as far as motive is concerned. The difference is that he operated on a larger scale, so large in fact as to seem unimaginable. Indeed, the fact alone that he became President and enjoyed an orgy of hedonistic self-indulgence during his aborted tenure is difficult to believe.

Malacañang was cheapened with his brief tenancy. Here was a presumptuous canto boy, with no more credentials than a shoddy box-office appeal, occupying the highest office in the land. The Palace had housed the likes of Quezon, Osmeña, Roxas, Laurel and other illustrious presidents who had a wealth of experience in public office on top of intellectual and academic endowments. That historic residence, redolent with our struggle for recognition as a free people, deserved no less than those—like them or not—gifted leaders.

And then came this ex-actor, with little of administrative ability and less of cerebral aptitude, not to say a reputation for integrity, to darken the halls where statesmen strode before. His unctuous promises to the poor, his fractured English, his opportunistic relatives both legitimate and illegitimate, and the cronies who preyed upon the land like a horde of hungry locusts, ill-befitted that symbol of the nation's faith.

What is more incredible is that there are still some people who refuse to believe that their fallen leader has done any wrong and are prepared to defend him to the last slipper. His invocation of the 10 million votes he received in 1998 belies the silly notion that the voice of the people is the voice of God.

(Other charlatans who rely on the vulgar vote—and some of them are now in the Senate—have also proved quite the opposite: that the people who elected them do not speak with Heaven's voice. One of them has made the ludicrous claim, in the course of a solemn invocation, that God had spoken to him, and through a cell phone at that.)

Erap has been sidelined. From the leading man he used to be, he has become only a featured player and will probably become only an extra later. His erstwhile subalterns, like the loyal Panfilo Lacson and Edgardo Angara, have taken over the stellar roles. Officially, Estrada is now only an accused person who is not even bailable because of the serious charges and strong evidence against him. Ironically, he voted for the Plunder Law, under which he may be sentenced to death, when he was a senator.

His battery of lawyers now intend to delay his trial and conviction, as promised by one of them who says they can do this by at least 5 years. *At least.* This strategy is evident from the many motions they have filed that at the latest count are nearing 100. All of them boycotted the hearing on Oct. 1, citing various superficial reasons like loss of sleep and a pilgrimage to the Virgin of Manaoag. The Third Division of the Sandiganbayan seems to be dancing to the piper's tune, which is a merry one indeed to the defense.

The strategy of delay is familiar to bench and bar. The antidote is a strict court that will not allow pussyfooting at the expense of the speedy administration of justice. Not only the accused but the prosecution as well is entitled to the right to a speedy trial. The court must acquit the accused if his guilt has not been proved and convict him if the prosecution has overcome the presumption of innocence in his favor. But the court must do this at the shortest possible time to give effect to the mandate of the law.

Estrada and his son Jinggoy are not only benefiting from the delay in the trial of their cases but are also enjoying special concessions not extended to other detention prisoners. While others accused of lesser offenses are sardined into smelly makeshift cells with hardly any sleeping space, the Erap duo were first provided with a comfortable cottage in Laguna (where President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo even paid them a social call) which they abandoned in favor of the present hospital lodgings.

And they have also rejected even these comfortable quarters, for medical reasons certified by their own personal physicians, whose findings are doubted by their colleagues for obvious reasons. What better place to be than in a hospital if one is sick? Recently, Jinggoy again asserted his privileged status by seeking court permission to visit his grandparents' graves on All Souls' Day. This flash-in-the-pan politician should realize that the days when he enjoyed vicarious importance as his father's son are gone forever.

With the war on terror hogging the headlines, many other important issues have been elbowed out of the front pages and prime time TV. Senator, Lacson should be grateful to Osama bin Laden. for taking the heat off the Senate investigation of his alleged crimes, including murder, drug trafficking, kidnapping and money laundering. The coup rumors, fanned by the charges against Mike Arroyo apparently being orchestrated by the opposition, have also relegated the Estrada trials to the background.

Let us hope that the charges against Erap will not enjoy the same fate as the civil and criminal cases against Imelda Marcos that have been slumbering in our courts for more than a decade without any hope of awakening in the near future. Let us also pray that the Lacson case will not be simply swept quietly under the rug after the senators shall have returned from their expensive junkets abroad. And let us *demand* that Joseph Estrada and his co-conspirators be tried forthwith, without further unnecessary delay, to determine if he is as pure as the summer rain or as dirty as the garbage in Payatas.

Come down

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

A STORY is told about a deranged man who climbed up a tree, and no one—not the police, the fire department, the mayor or even his relatives could make him come down. Finally, the parish priest was called in. He took a long look at the man up the tree and gave his blessing. To the amazement of many, the man immediately and hurriedly came down! Asked later why he came down, the deranged man said, "Well, I saw this man in white robe, he did not say any word, but I understood his gesture with his raised hand telling me to come down, he was cutting down the tree!"

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk. 19, 1-10) Zaccheus also came down from the tree at Jesus' invitation. It was affirmation that made him come down. Jesus stopped for him, looked up to him, and called his name and announced for all to hear that he was staying in his house. Jesus gave importance and recognition to this man who was a tax collector, a man of low stature (not only physically) and looked down upon by the Jews. "And he came down quickly and received him with joy." Affirmation works. Sometimes affirmation and love are the only things that can work to make a person come down from his tree. No amount of force, harsh words or intimidation can change a person at some point in time. Try affirmation. Try love. Keep trying.

* * *

Why does a person climb up a tree in the first place? I remember as children how we loved to climb trees to play and to gather fruits. How beautiful to remember! But I also remember the times when we would climb a tree in a huff because a barking dog was after us, and the tree was the only safe refuge. And there we stayed, captive, until the dog left us, or until someone "rescued" us. And so it is that as we grow older, we still climb trees to be where no one can reach us, where it is safe and comfortable, where we can have a good view, where we have control or territory, or so we think.

What is your tree of refuge? Is it your money, your position, your pride? Is it your vices, your sins, your escapades, your pleasures? Trees lift us up, but they also limit us. You cannot stay up on a tree forever. Come down. Walk the earth. Kiss the ground. That's where the action is, with all its filth, sweat and tears. Face and accept your reality. Come down. Jesus is on the ground. That's the greatest assurance.

* * *

What goes up must come down. The problem with some people is that they cannot accept that they are going down, or are already down. And so it is that we have people who hold on to power, parents who cannot let go of their children, women who stretch their beauty and charm, men who continue to prey on younger women, etc. Are you still holding on to your faded glory and glorious past? Are you still up on your pedestal, imagined or real? Come down. Find your joy, your meaning, find your God, in whatever reality you have now.

* * *

God sees the heart. How assuring to know that God meets us wherever we're headed. People saw Zaccheus as a sinner, but Jesus saw in him a lost soul, a faith seeker who was humble and sincere of heart. Do we look down on people? Do we judge them negatively? Do we give people a chance to grow and to change? Do we grumble when someone is generous or forgiving? The bottom line is that God is generous and forgiving. Let's do the same.

* * *

Jesus was a welcoming person. He opened His arms to everything and to everyone. "Whoever you are, come down, I am here to catch you, and to embrace you." Do we carry the same message to other people? How do we treat people of a different religion? How do we treat people of a different culture or social status? Sooner or later, we all will go down. Death is the great leveler. Just make sure that you don't go down to the bottomless pit. Go down on your knees, go down into the heart of a merciful God.

* * *

"Zaccheus, come down. I must stay at your house today." Remove the name of Zaccheus and put your name. Let us all welcome Jesus into our hearts, into our homes today, into our country, into our troubled world. He will come to us whoever we are, whatever we have been! He awaits our invitation. When was the last time you really and sincerely invited Him into your heart?

* * *

"They can never put a good man down. A good man is never gone." Thus I wrote about my father when he died in 1987. Thus I write today about Councilor Sonny Sison of Urdaneta, Pangasinan, my true friend and chosen brother. Many politicians saw him as a threat and many times tried to put him down, but he always came out victorious. That's because in the end, goodness pays. Crime does not pay, now and later. May we have more men and women like Sonny Sison in public service and in church service. From where you are, pray for us, intercede for our country, till we meet again, in the Resurrection.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, down on my knees, I ask you to come down on us and heal our hearts, our homes, our country, our troubled world. Amen.

A kite in the wind

COMMENTARY

Sylvia L. Mayuga

MAXIMO "Junie" Kalaw, Jr., true friend of the times, passed away from pancreatic cancer at 63 in New York City on Nov. 2. Like a kite drawn ever higher by the winds of change, his questing spirit has been a generous guide as a spiritual sea change began in the turbulent '60s. That change now approaches a climax in a new millennium, revealing his greatest gift to our country: helping us ask the right questions in critical times for the world.

My mind's eye often returns to his Blue Ridge home—its group meditation and visioning, the art and earnest conversation that fortified friends and allies through decades of a common quest. I have just as often sought that zone of clarity alone—learning the path of a sacred warrior in its magnificent library, thinking things through by its quiet pool. Junie's cool, compassionate hand was always there, holding up a mirror as the best way out of the maze.

There was always a sense of the impossible in the paths to which he invited fellow-seekers, beginning with the Caliraya Foundation for Higher Consciousness and the Environment in the '70s. But that was par for the course in times that demanded nothing less than challenging the premises of a prevailing world order. We were however not expected to do it alone. The sense of the impossible always came with a parallel sense of the magical—a power rooted in the natural world, pulsing through all of creation to its crown in a human consciousness reaching for the eternal. Faced with the thesis of a communist revolution and its antithesis in martial law, Junie was a guide on a path of synthesis that has outlived them both.

Like learning to become a deep-sea diver was how it was for the lucky band that heard of this possible synthesis from the sages and scientists he convened for a historic teach-in beside the Caliraya Lake in the mid-'70s. Zen, martial arts, dream interpretation, meditation—all these Junie offered on a loaded banquet table, gifting us with technique for apocalyptic times to come.

The powerful seeds he planted at the water's edge would sprout and respond to shape-shifting times. With graphs and charts, lectures from more visiting mages and sages, prayer and meditation, he prodded us consistently to new birth. Often enough, the new came wrapped in initial confusion and unease, even terror, as the deep interface between inner and outer ecology confronted us wherever we turned. The world was in trouble and we could not help without emptying out the old completely, beginning with ourselves.

As our country's political standard changed in the '80s, I asked Junie whether he ever thought of running for the Senate. His answer came from uncompromising personal vision, "The Senate is the last place to be if you really want change for our country." The words were not idle; they were matched with new action once more marked with a touch of the quixotic, as opportunists scrambled for the political spoils of People Power: a campaign to gather a popular constituency for Inang Kalikasan powerful enough to influence national policy.

Junie Kalaw, to the manor born, plunged into the mud and dirt of grass-roots organizing, befriending and allying with the Reds, making himself heard in both houses of Congress on a logging ban. With the help of enlightened cells in the media and the hard work of Haribon, a million votes were gathered. Still, that foray into grass-roots politics did not come soon enough to prevent tragedy in Ormoc, the death of Laguna Lake, the increasing number of floods from devastated watersheds all over the country. Today the floods rise ever higher and Manila's demise speeds up from its own garbage and polluted air, new laws notwithstanding. That old campaign for Inang Kalikasan waits to be revived into a mass movement for dear life.

Still surrounded now by seeming impossibility, the gains often seem small. But now there, too, is the monument of the Rio Summit and the solid, if presently threatened, gains of Philippine Agenda 21. Hope, as the poet Emily Dickinson once said, remains "a feathered thing in our hearts." It may not always be visible but the incremental value in all our individual and collective strivings lies always in wait for the touch of a greater power. I continue to discover the winds of time still spreading the seeds of that new consciousness learned in Caliraya.

I am content to continue lighting the fire whenever it dies, thanking Junie for the flints he handed out a quarter of a century ago.

Sylvia L. Mayuga is a veteran freelance writer on historical and cultural issues.

Coincidences

HIGH BLOOD

Soly P. Paraiso

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —**Ed.**

IN THE SPACE of nearly five years, three unforgettable occurrences happened in my life that coincided with a string of significant events here in the Philippines. These events will haunt me for as long as I live.

In 1996, I came home to Olongapo City from San Diego, California with my sick husband Victor, to fulfill his wish to die and be buried in his beloved hometown. He died on Dec. 11, 1996 and was buried on Dec. 17, 1996.

Three years later, I came home again to visit my sick brother Al, a humble lawyer in his own right who had great dreams for his country that had never been realized. In his lifetime, he had helped a lot of people. His heart was always for the poor. He earned a lot of money but died broken-hearted and penniless. He died on March 17, 1999 and was buried on March 20, 1999.

No significant event happened that year, but it was the year that the whole world was agog with great anticipation for the coming millennium. The Y2K was on everybody's lips. Some predicted that it would be the end of the world. It was bandied about that computers would crash, and banks and other business establishments would be greatly affected. A lot of people panicked. Those who had money in the banks withdrew all their savings. People stashed away supplies like rice, canned goods, water, matches, batteries, candles, kerosene, gasoline for their cars and other things that they thought would be needed in any eventuality.

But when the much-awaited and much-dreaded moment came, at the stroke of midnight on Dec. 31, 1999, the whole world burst into one giant celebration. We witnessed a great spectacle that never happened before. Fireworks of all shapes, colors and sizes exploded in all their splendor everywhere: in Africa, Australia, China, Japan, England, Russia, the United States and in our very own Philippines. At the Luneta, Makati, Quezon City Circle, people danced in the streets. It was an unforgettable sight. All our apprehensions and fears vanished into thin air. Doomsayers' predictions were proven wrong. We collectively thanked God that we were still alive! And that in spite of all the troubles that we were going through, the world was still intact.

For the third time, I came home last November 2000, to be with my son who was seriously ill. Gie had been suffering from colon cancer since 1997. Like his father, he had undergone surgery, radiation and chemotherapy. I never thought this could happen to Gie, who was an exercise buff. He had a gymnasium at home where he did all his workouts religiously. He was ever conscious of his diet. And he had an abiding faith in God. Gie read the Bible regularly.

Because of Gie's failing health, his siblings—Ben, Eden and Venus—and I who are all based in San Diego, California, and another brother, Sonny, a lieutenant in the US Navy stationed in Okinawa, Japan, agreed to come home to be with Gie to celebrate his and my birthday (we had the same birthday, Jan. 22). We also contacted my nieces and nephew in Hayward, California, in Seattle, Washington and in Guam to come home so we could have a sort of family reunion on that day.

Since I came home in November the year before, Gie's condition had been rapidly deteriorating. Despite the surgery performed by the ever-cheerful Dr. Hosaka, the radiation sessions at the St Luke's Medical Center and the chemotherapy supervised by the kind-hearted and conscientious Dr. Leo Marbella, who never tired helping us, Gie's health went downhill.

Gie never gave up hope that he would still make it. His body was weak but his spirit was strong. The love and support he received from all of us, his loved ones, including his eldest daughter Michelle and her husband, Peter, kept him going. But through all these, Gie said that if it is God's will that it is time for him to go, he said he was ready.

When the chemotherapy was no longer possible because of his body's weak resistance, we brought him home to Olongapo City as per his doctor's advice.

Meanwhile, the impeachment trial of President Joseph Estrada began on Dec. 7. While taking care of Gie, Thed, Beth and I would watch the daily proceedings on TV and Gie would watch with us although he was in extreme pain. He would give his opinion about the senator-judges and praise the prosecutors who were fearlessly presenting the mountain of evidence against Erap. He would curse under his breath at the defense lawyers who attempted to hide the truth.

As days passed by, Gie became weaker and weaker. His doctor told us that it would not be long before he would succumb. We did our best to make his remaining days as comfortable as possible.

On Dec. 24, the day before Christmas, Gie asked to be put on his wheelchair so he could watch me while I prepare the food that we would partake for our *noche buena*. Although weak and in pain, he managed to join us at the dining table.

The once robust and hale body was now emaciated. Gone was the Robert Redford look. They couldn't believe that with them was the good-looking, fun-loving, guitar-playing, kind and ever-thoughtful Gie that they knew.

Thed, the ever-loving wife of Gie, had never left his side since we brought him home from Manila. We kept watch over him the whole night of Jan. 15 as he was now restive. We knew the end was near. We wept and prayed.

At 10 a.m. of Jan. 16, Gie was restive as he looked around as if waiting for someone. I whispered to him that Eden was coming any moment now. Then Thed played Gie's favorite song, "Constantly" which he recorded years ago. Gie smiled faintly then closed his eyes. As we gathered around him, we knew that he had left us. He was gone six days before our birthday. I couldn't describe how I felt. I just wept silently as Myla, Gie's daughter and Thed, his wife, cried aloud as they hugged and kissed him. Beth and Venus wept quietly with me. Ben and Sonny wiped away tears from their eyes.

Eden came two days too late. There in the coffin lay her dearest brother whom she hadn't seen in years. Her memory of him was that of a healthy, robust hunk of a man. Sonny caught her in his arms when she fainted at the sight of Gie. Jun, my nephew from Guam, also came late. He was beside himself when he saw Gie in the coffin. He loved his cousin very much. He too wept unabashedly.

On the night of Jan. 16, the 11 pro-Estrada senators voted against opening the second envelope that would have revealed how vast Estrada's hidden wealth was. The 10 senators who voted to open the envelope walked out in disgust. Senators Loren Legarda, Frank Drilon and then Senate President Nene Pimentel wept, while Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta danced in glee.

That was the beginning of People Power II. People from all walks of life demanded that Erap resign. As in People Power I, Jaime Cardinal Sin, Cory Aquino and Fidel Ramos led the throng that gathered at the Edsa Shrine for four unforgettable days and nights. Until on the early morning of Jan. 20, when people marched toward Malacañang to forcibly yank him out of the Palace, Erap and family left Malacañang through the backdoor.

That was the day Gie was buried at the Olongapo Memorial Park, two days before Gie and I were to celebrate our birthday and the reunion of our family. All his loved ones, his family and friends were there to bid goodbye to a guy who touched their lives so passionately, albeit briefly.

We were all filled with mixed emotions on that memorable day, Jan. 20, 2001. Sad because our loved one, Gie had left us. Happy because we got rid of a national leader who in two and a half years surpassed what another corrupt leader amassed in 20 years.

We had a feeling that Gie was looking down on us, smiling a triumphant smile that finally the Philippines could now breath the sweet scent of freedom.

Soly P. Paraiso is a freelance writer in San Diego, California.

Media bring the good, bad and ugly to Afghanistan

FEATURE

Mike Collett-White

JABAL-US-SARAJ, Afghanistan—When hundreds of reporters began to descend on the small Afghan town of Jabal-us-Saraj six weeks ago, the locals were licking their lips at the prospect of an economic boom.

They have not been disappointed. Drivers, translators, restaurants, shops, carpenters, mechanics and officials have all earned sums of cash that hitherto would only have been a dream.

But as time goes on, the tensions and problems caused by the presence of the world's press have surfaced—between the Afghan population and journalists, between the locals, and, of course, between the highly competitive reporters themselves.

US air attacks on Afghanistan's ruling Taliban are in their fourth week, and the war on world terrorism focused on the hardline Islamic movement has regularly topped news bulletins.

The appetite for news and views from what was one of the world's most inhospitable countries has been insatiable.

The inevitable media frenzy this created has hit two main locations—Khoja Bahawuddin near the Afghan-Tajik border in the very north and Jabal-us-Saraj, about 300 km south at the mouth of the Panjsher Valley.

They lie at either end of the small area of Afghan territory held by opposition United Front forces, also known as the Northern Alliance for the location of their tiny redoubt.

The remainder of the country—more than 90 percent—is held by the Taliban, which does not usually welcome foreign reporters and promises to deal harshly with any it finds without proper accreditation.

The first big challenge for the media is getting into northern Afghanistan. The trip to Khoja Bahawuddin is made most often by road from the Tajik capital of Dushanbe.

Taxis charge $400 to get to the border, four times the rate before the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States and resulting military campaign in Afghanistan.

The lucky ones get a ride in an ageing Soviet helicopter, although even that is no guarantee of landing where you want.

Many reporters promised a flight to Jabal-us-Saraj land instead in Khoja Bahawuddin, where they can wait for up to 10 days for another helicopter. Some take the road instead.

"It was the worst journey of my life," said one South African cameraman, a hardened war reporter not easily frightened.

The twisting, jarring dirt tracks wind around the side of stunning mountains, with steep drops and nothing but the skill of the driver and a little luck keeping passengers alive.

Getting out is another major headache. More than 100 people were on the helicopter waiting list in late October, with flights often postponed for days because of weather or because they are booked to supply opposition forces with ammunition.

Translators and drivers make about $100 a day each, a percentage of which goes to the foreign ministry, which registers reporters and gives them permission each day to visit the front lines to the south or head along the valleys to the north. Before the boom, average monthly wages were $15-$20.

With the stakes so high, rival clans in the area have begun to clash over who should get the spoils.

The bulk of the business has gone to people from the Panjsher who live in Jabal-us-Saraj.

But those from the Shomali Plain further south, where the front lines cross, have pushed for a redistribution of the wealth, and media companies have been forced to change drivers.

The real estate industry has seen unprecedented growth, with large houses snapped up by the major news corporations seeking a few home comforts in a country where falling sick and getting tired are to be expected.

The going rate for a big house with a garden, cook, security guard and fixer is $200 a day.

Opposition commanders have been overwhelmed by requests to visit their front-line positions, from where cameramen and photographers get shots of the US bombardments and of the ongoing, low-level civil war.

The influx of Westerners, with their lack of understanding of the local Muslim culture, is not universally welcomed.

Male media staff have been berated by the mujahideen for wearing shorts, and female staff for leaving arms uncovered.

Even in opposition-held territory, where the regime is less strict than in Taliban areas, every girl over the age of 15 is hidden behind a heavy burqa veil.

Shooting pictures and talking to women is frowned upon, although reporters regularly do so. One official in Khoja Bahawuddin stopped people from visiting a school after he discovered a photographer taking pictures of girls.

Women are always hidden behind closed doors before foreigners are allowed into a house they are thinking of renting. This is in keeping with local custom.

Drinking alcohol is forbidden, a major problem for some hardened hacks who have resorted to smuggling in vodka in plastic mineral water bottles for their tipple.

Traditionally intense rivalries between media companies are only intensified in Afghanistan.

Television crews block access to their precious roof space on the front line, either by cajoling or bribing soldiers.

Some of the world's most well-respected companies have got involved in staging "fighting" on the front line, paying soldiers to pose and to fire for the cameras, irrespective of the risk to the mujahideen who are then fired on in return by the Taliban.

"One hundred dollars per shell" is the quip among reporters less than impressed with the theatrical approach to journalism.

Another trick employed for effect is the "flak jacket fixation," a tendency to wear body armor to add to the impression of danger, even where none lies.

One reporter was seen urging his cameraman to roll the film as he helped civilian victims of the US attacks into the back of his vehicle, and others have posed in places where they know they will draw fire from the Taliban.

The marksmen have proved inaccurate so far.

Reuters

Farmers end strike empty-handed

COMMENTARY

Nono Alfonso, S.J.
Institute on Church and Social Issues

"WE shall return." These were the words of the 28 farmers from Negros Occidental as they ended last week their three-week-old picket before the Department of Agrarian Reform in Quezon City. The group represented more than 1,000 farmers who were being excluded from the implementation of the agrarian reform program in the controversial Cojuangco lands. According to these farmers, in 1997, when Danding Cojuangco offered his land to the government for the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, he did not comply with the DAR policy and procedure on the identification of legitimate farmer-beneficiaries. In short, he named his own "men," resulting in the exclusion of the picketing farmers.

In response to the protest actions, all the DAR could do was to refer their case back to the regional office in Negros. Thus after three weeks in Manila, the farmers were bound home. It is before the regional office that they now bring their case. But they vowed that if nothing happens there, they would return to hound the central office again until justice is given them.

For now, the farmers are glad that they are going home. The women especially have been worrying about the children they left behind. The older ones in the group have been feeling weaker for lack of sleep because of the continuous noise of vehicles passing their makeshift tents along the Quezon Circle. They have also been getting sick from the vehicular fumes and the polluted air of the metropolis—how they miss the fresh air in the haciendas. For many, this three-week stay has been challenging and demanding. Most of them are new to holding strikes and protest actions, much less meeting with the media. They are simple and ordinary farmers. Most of them like Nilda Panado are only functionally literate. *"Pasensiya na po, hindi ako masyadong marunong mag-Tagalog dahil* elementary *lang ang natapos ko."* They have no ideology, they are not politicians. Nor are they puppets of radical groups as the agrarian reform secretary initially thought of them. All they know is how to till the lands that they, and their ancestors before them, have worked since their childhood, long before Cojuangco came to Negros in the '70s and started buying haciendas. Now, with the help of some NGOs they are learning how to fight for their rights.

In their three weeks in Manila, one very memorable experience stands out for these farmers. One afternoon, they were scheduled to meet with Secretary Hernani Braganza. They waited for hours and it became clear that Braganza would stand them up. In frustration, they barricaded the gates of the DAR office. To their fearful surprise, a police and SWAT team appeared to disperse them. The women were already crying, pleading their case before the police, *"Hindi ho kami ang kaaway; ipinaglalaban lang namin ang karapatan namin."* Looking back at the experience, not a few saw the irony of how on the one hand, Braganza could easily summon the police to protect the DAR office against unarmed farmers and yet on the other hand, he could not enlist the help of the police or the military in protecting the farmers from the security forces or goons of landlords in the haciendas.

But what really pained the farmers more than anything else was Braganza's seeming unconcern for their plight. Many lamented how they had come a long way from home and yet saw very little of Braganza. While President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo herself was going around slum areas to be with the poor, the secretary was sending emissaries to "dialogue" with them. Indeed, the only time they were able to talk to him was when they gate-crashed a press conference the secretary was holding. Danny Flores, a member of the group, explained how hurt they were. They were simple people, he said, and for most of them, to see a government official was comparable to meeting a movie star. They looked upon these officials with awe and reverence. They did not have the cynicism or distrust that many people have toward government officials. But Braganza's "snobbery" has changed all that. It has become apparent to them that the DAR is not a public office where the farmers can feel welcome and attended to. Rather, it is a private office for the rich and the landed, where attention and hospitality are for those who can pay.

Yet even as they feel betrayed by the government, the farmers know that beyond the DAR and Braganza, they are up against a very powerful man, *"isang malaking tao"*—one who wields economic as well as political power in the country, one who has survived administrations from Marcos to Estrada, one who can summon the legal luminaries of the land and subject the agrarian reform program to time-consuming court proceedings. They wonder about the resolve of this government to go after Cojuangco who owns more than 5,000 hectares in 11 haciendas in Negros. Despite the many avowals of Braganza that there would be no holy cows in the implementation of the agrarian reform program, the farmers have yet to see these pronouncements translated into action in their province. Indeed, Negros continues to be the "final frontier" in the CARP's implementation. It is where the DAR's backlog in land acquisition and distribution remains concentrated, with 131,537 hectares still to be distributed.

The farmers are aware of the political influence that Cojuangco wields. In past elections, he has been able to consolidate his political hold on the province, supporting politicians from the barangay to the congressional levels. They are afraid that the President owes Cojuangco's Nationalist People's Coalition *utang-na-loob* for helping her pass controversial laws such as the Power Reform Act. Despite all this however, they would like to hope against hope that justice will be theirs. As Imelda de la Vega enthuses, *"Kahit gaano katatag ang pader, mawawasak din."* To this she adds a prayer, *"Sa tulong ni* Lord, *katukin sana niya ang puso ni* Danding *upang ibigay na nito ang lupa sa mahihirap."*

Socrates Banzuela of the PARFund explains why the government must go after the Cojuangco lands. Undeniably, he says, a major reason for the delay in the completion of the CARP is landowner resistance. Landowners are not convinced that the government is serious about the CARP. They point to bigger landholdings like the Cojuangco haciendas. Why pick on the small landowners, they ask. Why not start with the big ones? Inevitably therefore, to demonstrate its resolve to implement the CARP, government must go after the big farms. And in the end, the rise or fall of the government's agrarian reform program will really depend on its ability to distribute these big landholdings such as the Cojuangco haciendas.

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TALK OF THE TOWN

JOHN NERY, Editor

Join the discussion. E-mail us at talk@inquirer.com.ph

SKYCABLE AND HOME VS. STAR TV

Hey, who changed the channel?

THE SQUABBLE between SKYCable and Home Cable, which together account for some 60 percent of the Philippine market, and STAR TV Asia, which supplies premiere cable channels such as ESPN Sports and STAR Sports, isn't simply a business negotiation gone seriously wrong. It is also, like the text-cutback controversy involving Globe and Smart, eminently a consumer issue.

For the purposes of this page, however, the flap offers an object lesson in spin management—or mismanagement. To understand why the two leading operators (now merged) fell behind in the public opinion contest, all one needs to do is read their public statements.

SKYCable and Home Cable: From $5.5 million, Star TV Asia now wants us to pay $10 million

• THIS is outrageous.

• In peso terms, this translates to P520 million (P52/$) against P231 million (P42/$) in the old contract for five channels.*

Hence, we regret to announce that the STAR TV Group cut us off shortly after 2 p.m. on Oct. 19 while negotiations were ongoing.

It may only be a matter of time before the other cable operators drop channels as they are under the same cost pressures as SKYCable and Home Cable.

In order for us to accommodate the STAR TV Bundle, we will have to give up our major channels. We chose not to.

• SKYCable and Home Cable will bring you more basketball, golf and tennis.

SKYCable and Home Cable intend to beef up their sports specials coverage, which will more closely reflect Filipino viewing habits and interests. We have been bringing you the best in golf and tennis tournaments. We will add more coverage of top billiard, basketball and boxing events.

On SKYCable, we have recently added Channel News Asia (CNA) and AXN Action TV, as well as improved programming of our channels designed for Filipino audiences like Cinema One, ANC and Lifestyle Network. On Home Cable, we have recently added Cinema One, ANC, Knowledge Channel and Lifestyle Network.

We are operating under very difficult business conditions. SKYCable and Home Cable joined operations precisely to cut costs and make both operations viable. We know that only by being viable can we be of most value to our subscribers.

We hope for our subscribers' understanding at this time.

* Note:

• Star was actually trying to bully us into buying a bundle of six channels on a "take all or nothing" basis, including three channels for which we already have equivalent service. We initially wanted only three channels: STAR Sports, STAR Movies and ESPN. During negotiations, we tried to accommodate as many as five channels and increased our offer price accordingly.

Reproduced from the print advertisement published on Oct. 21, 2001.

STAR TV Asia: We have suspended cable supply of up to nine channels

WE REGRET to inform paying subscribers of Home Cable, SKYCable and the Pilipino Cable Corporation that STAR has indefinitely suspended the supply of up to nine of its channels to these cable operators and their affiliates.

Channels which will no longer be carried include ESPN, STAR Movies, National Geographic, STAR Sports, STAR World, Viva Cinema, Channel [V] and others.

This action was necessary due to these cable systems' nonpayment of millions of dollars of fees to STAR and ESPN Star Sports. Some of these debts date back to last year.

STAR sincerely apologizes for the frustration that the absence of STAR channels will cause our loyal viewers, particularly at a time when the cable companies are planning to raise their subscription fees.

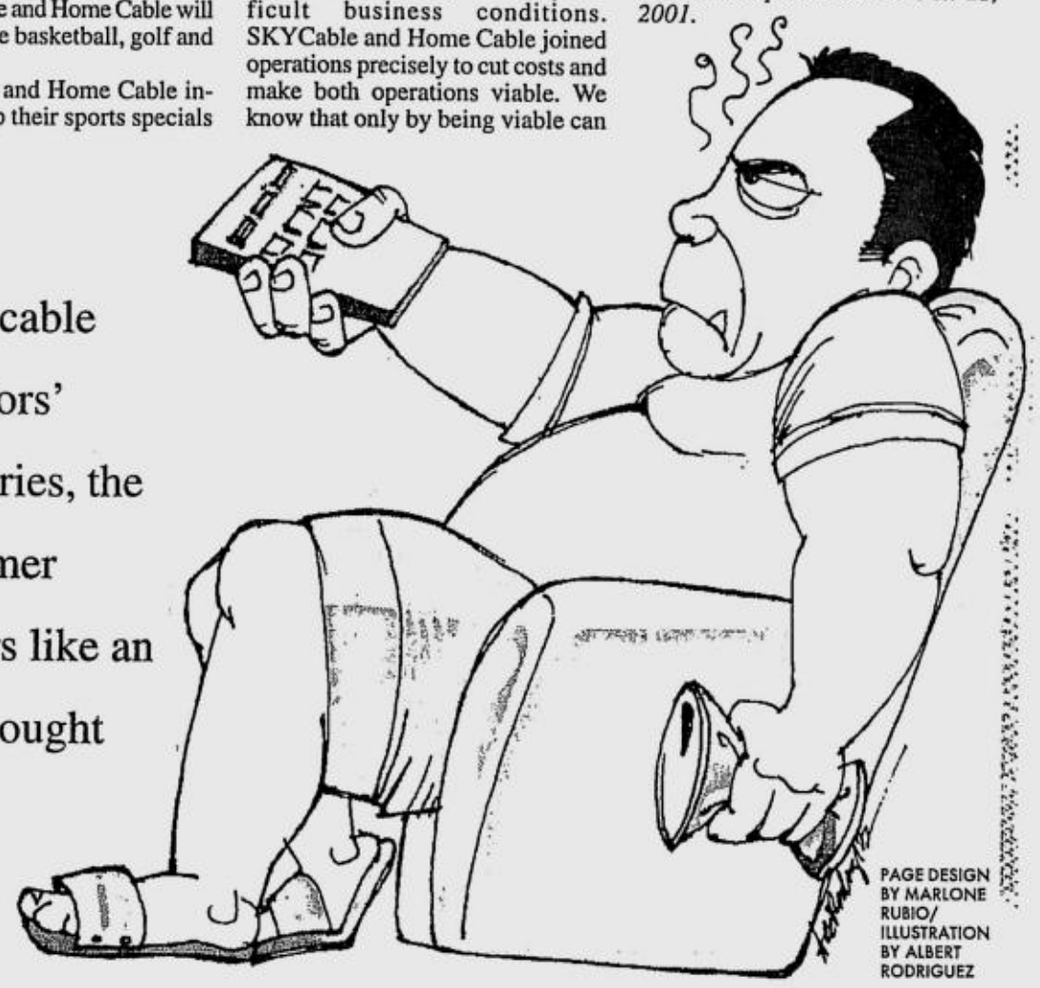
We hope that the matter will be resolved quickly and the normal service will be resumed.

Viewers in Metro Manila can still enjoy their favorite STAR channels, and the ESPN and STAR Sports channels on Destiny Cable, Las Piñas/Parañaque Cable and Global Cable.

Viewers in the rest of the Philippines can access the full range of channels on the DTH operator Dream Broadcasting, and through their local cable companies.

Reproduced from the print advertisement published Oct. 21, 2001.

In the cable operators' advisories, the consumer appears like an afterthought



PAGE DESIGN BY MARLONE RUBIO/ ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

SKY and Home: The real issue

SKYCABLE and Home Cable never denied their arrears. The arrears mounted precisely because of our not being able to afford the continuing escalation in dollar terms of programming costs, even as subscription fees were collected in devalued peso terms.

However, the arrears is not the reason STAR cut programming. The real issue is the new and doubled rates being imposed by STAR TV and their insistence on bundling their channel offerings to include those SKYCable and Home Cable do not need.

SKYCable and Home Cable were cut off for not accepting their "all or nothing" proposal of six channels at $10 million, up from the current $5.5 million. In fact, STAR was willing to re-schedule the payment of the arrears had SKYCable and Home Cable agreed to these terms. It was to pressure us to accept their terms that STAR cut programming, not because of arrears.

In fact, Charles Pollard of STAR TV wrote shortly before they cut programming:

"The offer...is not even close enough to the...figure we are seeking. We will therefore indefinitely suspend access to all our channels and services on all your systems and affiliates, with immediate effect from 1400 hours today, and until an agreement on pricing and all arrears is reached..."

This letter was sent at 12:53 p.m. or or just a little over an hour before they cut programming.

Foreigners vs Filipinos?

It is also unfortunate that a foreign company is using the old strategy of divide and conquer. Worse still, they are spreading less than honest assertions in the process.

SKYCable and Home Cable did not require that a 100 percent declaration be made by all the PCTA (Philippine Cable TV Association) members. Both companies are only operating in a limited area of the Philippines and are not competing with most of the more than 400 cable operators in the country. There is no reason to demand that the other operators pay higher so that STAR TV can generate revenues over and above what is fair.

What was requested was a level playing field. In response, STAR TV offered distribution of their channels wherein SKYCable and Home Cable would sell STAR's channels to fellow local cable operators. They expected us to be stricter in enforcing the fees on other operators.

While this will benefit SKYCable and Home Cable by leveling the playing field, it will generate higher revenues for STAR TV from us and from other operators. We declined the offer for distribution as it is not our core business.

Filipino tastes

We will not shortchange our subscribers. SKYCable and Home Cable are committed to deliver creditable sports programming. We have already been bringing you exclusive coverage of major sports events like the PGA, Australian and French Open, Ryder Cup, Dunhill Links, Olympics and others.

We are further committed to putting up our own sports channel which will cater to Filipino sports interests. We are currently in negotiations for carriage of upcoming major sports events to bring you more basketball, billiards, boxing, tennis and golf.

Rest assured that we are doing our best to bring you sports programming in line with your preferences. Stay tuned to Channel 29.

Open to negotiations

SKYCable and Home Cable did not lose nine channels. Neither carried that many. We are willing to take their bundle, but it is simply not affordable. Even with what they term as discounts, because they insisted we take all their channels, the absolute amount was still $10 million, practically double the $5.5 million we were paying under the expired contract.

Foreign exchange protection is not a term they offered. It is a term we initiated as a requirement for all our negotiations with all providers.

It is also not true as they claim that they are not forcing SKYCable and Home Cable to get all their channels. All their correspondence insist on the precondition to carry all their channels, including Viva. They did give unbundled options. However, the rates of the smaller bundles were about as much as the full bundles that it was irrational to even consider taking any of the smaller bundles.

SKYCable and Home Cable subscription rates remain among the lowest in the region. Current subscription fees for both packages are at only $10.6 a month.

For the longest time, SKYCable and Home Cable have improved and increased channels as well as added extra sports offerings without additional cost to subscribers, despite having to pay increasing dollar-denominated programming costs. The peso's value fell 71 percent to an average of P50.71 per US dollar in 2001 from P29.70 in 1997.

We ask for the understanding of our subscribers. Being the industry leader, we have to take up the cudgels for the rest of the industry. Today, the Philippine cable television industry is in serious trouble and we need to redefine the rules by which we play now. If Home Cable and SKYCable, with the majority of the market, cannot stand up to this foreign program supplier, we might as well surrender control of the industry to them now. And subscribers should expect to pay through the nose as STAR TV demands.

Reproduced from the Home Cable website.

COMPARATIVE REGIONAL FEES (in US Dollars)

	BASIC	PREMIUM	ADD'L CHANNELS
SKYCable/ Home Cable	$10.6	—	—
I-Cable (HK)	$38 (15 chs. only)	—	up to $15 per addl.ch.
UBC (Thailand)	$15	$23	—
Astro (Malaysia)	$17	$23	—
SCV (Singapore)	$11 (10 chs. only)	—	up to $8.33 per addl. ch.

Talking points

IT IS worth noting that the print ads which came out on the same day had strikingly dissimilar formats. The STAR TV ad was written as a letter, beginning with "Dear Subscriber," and ending with an actual person's name: Charles Pollard, the regional managing director. It thus enjoyed the advantage of having an obvious writer and a clear reader in mind: every sentence in the ad copy is written "by" Pollard and directed to the "paying subscribers" of the three cable operators (Pilipino Cable is the third). It is easy to follow the flow of the letter: the decision is announced, the scope is delimited, the reason explained, the next steps the viewers can take outlined. But throughout the short letter, the right emotional buttons are pushed: regrets in the beginning, apologies again in the middle, hopes that a settlement is near following right after.

In contrast, the SKY/Home ad reads like a memo. In fact, the ad reads just like the advisories the cable operators have been running, and continue to run, on air. It suffers from a lack of focus. Or rather, it suffers from a focus on the firms involved, rather than on the consumers who have paid good money for cable service.

Cable subscribers present a paradoxical profile: almost by definition, they know what it means to pay a premium for higher-quality service. That is why they are subscribers in the first place. But like most everyone else, they find it hard, on a personal level, to appreciate money in the millions. The executives at SKY and Home may know the profit-or-loss difference between $5.5 million and $10 million, but for the ordinary cable subscriber, these numbers are just that: numbers, of a hard-to-understand magnitude.

That is why it was a mistake to write ad copy (in this instance, about a third longer than STAR's) that is essentially an exegesis of why a business transaction went wrong. It would have been better if SKY and Home had admitted that they had been caught unprepared. While they really cannot make too much of the pullout being effected while negotiations were ongoing (because, by their own admission, the talks had dragged on for months), they have a better chance of soliciting public sympathy that way.

The advisory found in the Home Cable website, complete with the comparative table, apparently serves as the core statement; variations of this website advisory have found their way into print, for example, with a few personal letter-writing touches added here and there. But it is of a piece with the print ad: in it, the subscribers also seem to be an afterthought.

The first mention of the needs of the subscribers comes in the middle: "We will not shortchange our subscribers. SKYCable and Home Cable are committed to deliver creditable sports programming." (Notice the C-word, which is a far cry from adjectives veteran cable watchers can use to describe ESPN.) All told, the core statement devotes three paragraphs to consumer interests, including the following, puzzling line: "Rest assured that we are doing our best to bring you sports programming in line with your preferences." Don't they mean their budget constraints?—*J. Nery*

The WORLD
LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

NY firemen protest search curbs

NEW YORK—Emotions boiled over here Friday as firefighters protesting restrictions to their search for colleagues lost in the rubble of the World Trade Center scuffled with police, leading to 12 arrests.

Hundreds of firefighters broke down barricades around the site, known as "Ground Zero" since the devastating terror attack of Sept. 11, and five police officers were injured in the scuffles.

Those arrested included a retired fire captain, a fire marshal and three union leaders, and they face charges of assault, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct.

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said he sympathized with the firefighters who lost 347 comrades in the attack but that "the kind of conduct displayed today is unacceptable."

He added: "No matter how bad you feel... you don't get to punch New York City police officers. For that you go to jail."

The incident prompted Fire Commissioner Thomas Von Essen to make a public apology to the five injured police officers, two with black eyes and three with neck and back injuries.

"I want to apologize to those five police officers. I think of them as brothers in this tragedy from day one," he said at a press conference attended by Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik.

Firefighters' union representatives said they regretted that police officers were injured but claimed that they were not looking for confrontation, and that police had provoked the clashes.

"We did not want to have an altercation with the other heroes (the police).

"We wanted a peaceful march," one said.

The New York police and fire departments have been staunch comrades-in-arms in the wake of the attack on the twin towers, and the confrontation between uniformed services, with some firefighters being taken away in handcuffs, left witnesses gaping.

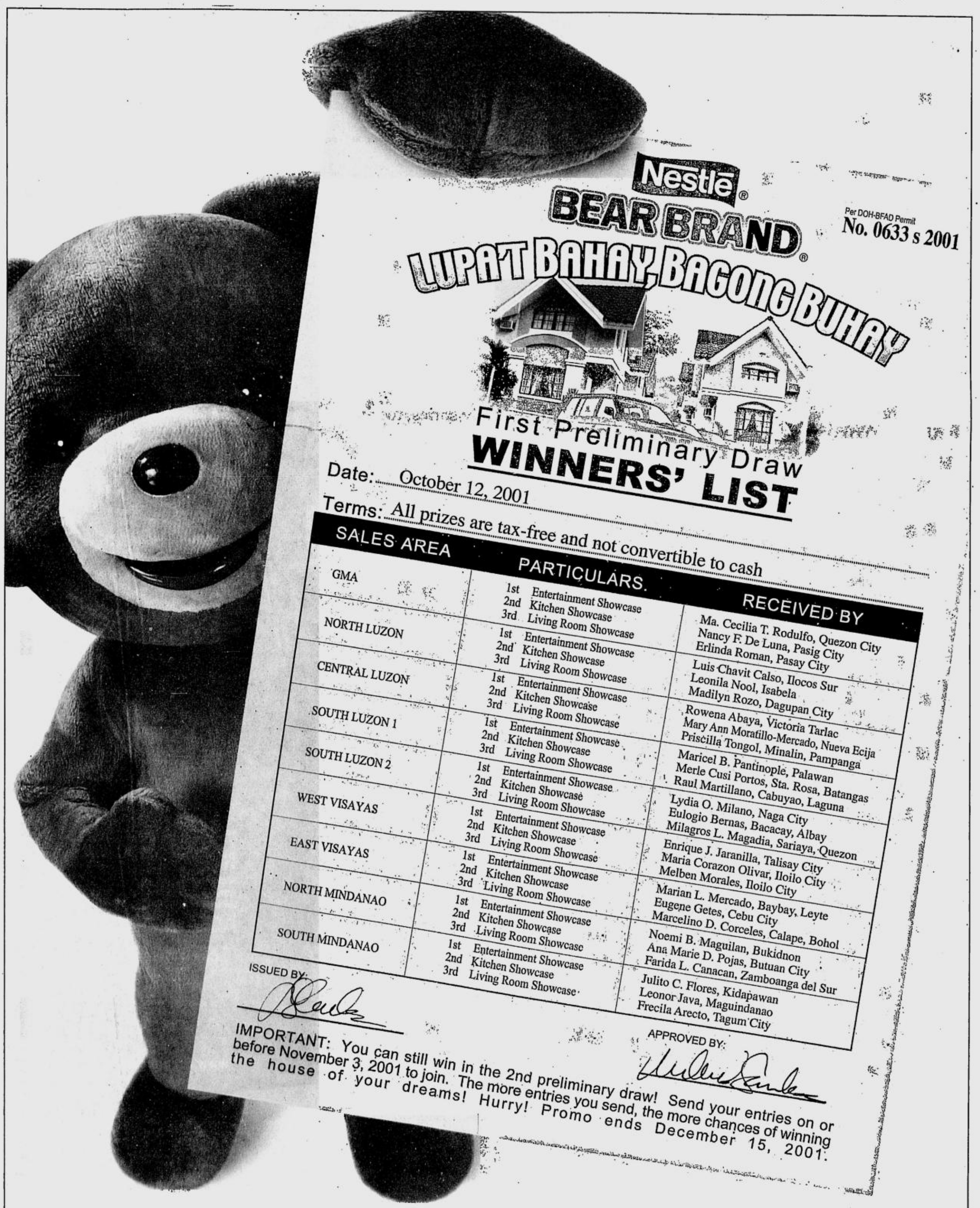
Giuliani said the decision to curb the recovery effort was made at the repeated advice of safety experts, who said the site was becoming increasingly dangerous as larger equipment was deployed, and that more lives could be lost.

The number of search and recovery workers at the site will be reduced to 75—25 each from the firefighting, police and port authority police services—Ken Holden of the Department of Design and Construction told a press conference on Friday.

The UFA said the restrictions would derail "the department's dignified attempt to recover emergency workers who lost their lives."

Ground Zero has become "a full-time construction scoop and dump operation," the association said in a press statement. Gorman said Friday that "we don't find remains at the Fresh Kills," the landfill where the debris is taken, and where some body parts have been found.

Firefighters requesting anonymity said they suspected the decision was motivated by financial concerns, with overtime pay costing the city millions of dollars since the destruction of the two 110-story World Trade Center towers and several other buildings. *AFP*



But for death, calm day in Mideast

JERUSALEM—Palestinian gunmen killed an Israeli in the West Bank Friday, shortly after Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat met briefly on the sidelines of an Euro-Mediterranean forum in Spain.

Israeli television reported that Palestinian gunmen had killed an Israeli but did not identify the victim or provide any other details.

However, a short time earlier Israeli military sources said that unidentified Palestinian assailants had wounded two soldiers, one seriously, near the Jewish settlement of Beit El near Ramallah.

The gunmen drove up in a jeep to an army barricade guarding the settlers and opened fire before fleeing into autonomous Palestinian territory, they said.

After the shooting near Ramallah an Israeli tank and about a dozen armored vehicles made a brief incursion into the Palestinian village of Silwad where about 20 people were arrested, Palestinian sources later said.

The army pulled out a short time later from the sector where Israel still has authority over security measures, they said.

The latest death brought the toll of 13 months of the Palestinian uprising, or intifada, to 947, including 741 Palestinians and 184 Israelis.

The shooting was the only major incident to blight one of the calmest days in more than a month in the occupied territories, where the Palestinian intifada against Israeli occupation has raged for well over a year.

It came after Peres and Arafat, who shared the 1994 Nobel peace prize, met briefly on the terrace of a hotel on the Spanish island of Majorca.

It was the first time Peres and Arafat met since Sept. 26 at Gaza airport, where they agreed on a tentative ceasefire in a bid to get the Middle East peace process rolling again.

The ceasefire collapsed almost immediately and the violence between the two sides has continued unabated.

The dovish foreign minister also told the Israeli daily Maariv Friday that all Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip should be immediately dismantled.

There were signs the relative quiet will not last long with still no viable peace process in sight despite talks British Prime Minister Tony Blair held on Thursday with the leaders of both sides on Thursday.

Israel hailed British Prime Minister Tony Blair's visit, while the Palestinians lamented his failure to lay out a bold initiative to establish a Palestinian state. *AFP*

PALESTINIANS hold up flags during a demonstration against Israel after Friday prayers in the Gaza Strip Nov. 2. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Israel should evacuate some Jewish settlements and conduct peace talks with the Palestinians even as violence rages. REUTERS

US reaches deal with Microsoft

WASHINGTON—Microsoft and the US Justice Department on Friday announced a settlement in their three-year-old antitrust case, with the software giant accepting restrictions on its business practices but avoiding harsher penalties.

The pact, which must be endorsed by a federal judge, gives computer makers freedom to feature software made by companies other than Microsoft, and requires Microsoft to share the inner workings of its Windows operating system with other software makers.

Although the business restrictions are a far cry from splitting the company in two, a remedy sought under the administration of President Bill Clinton, attorneys general from some of the 18 states that joined the government suit saw merit in the settlement.

Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates called the pact "fair and reasonable," and US Attorney General John Ashcroft said the agreement would end "unlawful conduct" by the company. A number of Wall Street analysts called the agreement a "win" for Microsoft.

Microsoft shares, which jumped more than 6 percent on Thursday on reports of a tentative settlement, seesawed around the unchanged level in Thursday trade on the Nasdaq stock market. They were off 25 cents at $61.59 in afternoon dealings.

If approved, the settlement would end a three-year-old legal battle in which Microsoft was found to have illegally maintained its monopoly in personal computer operating systems.

The agreement aims to rewrite the rules of the computer business so that consumers will be able to buy machines loaded with a variety of different software, not just those features that are pre-selected by Microsoft, the Justice Department said.

The settlement would allow computer manufacturers to work with other software developers and place their products on Microsoft Corp.'s Windows system, and would prevent the software giant from punishing anyone who makes or uses competing products, the Justice Department said.

It would require Microsoft to provide software developers with the interfaces necessary to inter-operate with Windows.

The company would also have to offer uniform licensing terms to key computer makers. *Reuters*

Mahathir urged to rally Asean vs US-led strikes

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad was urged Saturday to use his influence with Southeast Asian leaders to make a united call for a halt to the US-led strikes on Afghanistan.

Mahathir, who will be attending a two-day summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Brunei from Monday, said late Friday he would write to US President George W. Bush to seek an immediate end to bombings in Afghanistan.

Lim Kit Siang, chairman of the opposition Democratic Action Party, hailed Mahathir's efforts but said that an Asean consensus would carry greater weight with Washington.

"It is more important that Mahathir uses his influence to get the seventh Asean summit in Brunei next week to blaze the international path by being the first regional grouping in the world to make a collective call for a halt to the US-led air strikes in Afghanistan," Lim said.

"Not just because of the (Muslim holy month of) Ramadan and Christmas, but to stop the maiming and killing of innocent Afghan civilians and avert the winter humanitarian catastrophe."

The 10 Asean leaders, who will also meet their counterparts from Japan, China and South Korea, are expected to issue a joint declaration against terrorism at the summit.

But Asean officials in Brunei said Saturday the declaration may skirt the prickly issue of US-led air strikes on Afghanistan.

Lim said failure to mention the bombings in Afghanistan would be a "great disappointment and even a tragedy."

Muslim-majority Asean members Indonesia and Malaysia condemned Sept. 11 attacks on the US but opposed the retaliation in Afghanistan, saying it was killing civilians without stamping out terrorism.

Bush warned Friday he would not stop the US pounding of Afghanistan during Ramadan which starts Nov. 17 as US planes carpet-bombed Taliban lines in a bid to tighten a "noose" around terror suspect Osama bin Laden. *AFP*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER My WISHBOX WAVE 89.1

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TOTS at a North Korean nursery watch UN aid workers deliver food in Sariwon City, near Pyongyang in a picture taken early October. Food programs have focused on feeding children in North Korea, as they are among the hardest hit in the country's years-long food crisis. REUTERS

N. Korea will run short of food by January–UN

BEIJING—Warning that North Korea will run short of food by January, a UN official said Saturday his agency will ask foreign donors for 610,000 tons of grain to get the starving country through the winter.

The North's harvest this year was bigger than in 2000 but still 1.47 million tons short of what it needs, said David Morton, representative of the World Food Program in the North. Part of that gap has been filled with donations from Japan, South Korea, the United States and others.

"The food pipeline from donors will stop in January," Morton said at a news conference. "We will need to revive donor contributions... so that the beneficiaries, the children, don't run out of food in the middle of the winter."

Isolated, secretive North Korea, the world's last Stalinist dictatorship, has relied on food aid since the mid-1990s. State farms have suffered a string of floods and droughts, worsening damage done by decades of mismanagement and loss of Soviet subsidies.

Morton emphasized that despite a better harvest this year, aid officials see no sign of a sustained recovery.

Children are eating better but hospitals have run out of medicines, he said. Aid agencies have gotten only a limited response to appeals for foreign help to supply clean drinking water.

"The humanitarian situation in the country, it has improved but it's still very serious. Health conditions have deteriorated," Morton said.

The harvest this year was about as low as in other hunger-stricken years, he said. Last year, grain production had a record shortfall of 2.2 million tons.

North Korea lacks pesticides, fuel and other farm supplies, Morton said. He said about one-third as much fertilizer is available as in the early 1990s.

"The fact that we got through the past 12 months without major starvation, I think, is a tribute to the success of the aid groups," Morton said.

Small farmers markets have eased shortages in cities, but prices are high, Morton said. One kilogram of rice costs a month's salary for a government employee.

However, aid workers know little about such markets because they aren't allowed to visit, Morton said. Despite some recent relaxations, North Korea still bars them from many areas.

"Our ability to monitor is still constrained. We're not satisfied with the restrictions placed upon us," he said.

North Korean officials are stressing economic development over aid in an attempt to end their dependence on donations, said Morton, who also represents the UN Development Program in Pyongyang, the North's capital. *AP*

UK moves to rescue N. Ireland peace bid

BELFAST—Frantic talks aimed at rescuing Northern Ireland's latest peace crisis showed no sign of ending early Saturday, ahead of a midnight deadline to force through the re-election of Protestant leader David Trimble as first minister.

The province's cross-community Alliance Party said it had so far resisted pressure from London to temporarily re-align as Unionists—a move that would ensure Trimble's return to power.

Northern Ireland's peace process was plunged into fresh crisis Friday after Protestant hardliners ganged up to scupper the reelection of moderate Ulster Unionist chief Trimble.

Dissidents in his own party joined forces with the Democratic Unionists (DUP) to veto his reinstatement despite last week's historic announcement by the Irish Republican Army that it had begun to disarm.

The IRA statement was not good enough for the hardliners, who are fiercely suspicious that the Catholic paramilitary outfit, which fought for decades to end British rule, has merely mounted a public relations exercise.

They say no one has seen the dismantled weapons, no one knows how much meteriel was involved, where or when it was done, and whether the disarmament process will continue.

Although the vote Friday was 72 to 30 in favor of Trimble's reinstatement, he lost because he failed to gather enough Unionist support.

Under the assembly rules, a first minister and his deputy must be voted in by a majority of both Unionists and Catholic nationalists.

Trimble won unanimous support from the nationalists, but the balance among Protestants tipped against him when two of his own Ulster Unionists broke ranks and voted with the DUP.

The Alliance's five assembly members backed Trimble.

Fridays vote is a savage blow to the peace process after the euphoria produced by the hard-won IRA gesture, exposing the province's bitter sectarian divisions once again.

Without a first minister, the power-sharing executive in Belfast cannot function.

The Alliance party held an emergency meeting late Friday to discuss whether to re-designate and prevent the institutions being plunged into turmoil.

But party leader David Ford said he was not prepared to make such a move unless handed a guarantee that future assembly votes were not carried out along sectarian lines.

After speaking by telephone to British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Ford said he had been offered only a review of electoral procedures.

"At this stage a review is insufficient on its own. What we are looking for is a reform of the system so that a majority of pro-agreement votes counts."

"The designation system we have in the assembly is discriminating against us," he said. *AFP*

Panama finds possible Columbus ship

NOMBRE DE DIOS, Panama—Cannons, swords and pottery shards recovered this week from a 16th century ship just off Panama's coast suggest the vessel may have been used by Christopher Columbus or one of the earliest Spanish conquistadors.

There's apparently no treasure aboard. But American shipwreck hunter Warren White, who first detected the remains of the vessel while catching lobsters here in 1998, believes he found a Columbus ship, and experts say there's some evidence to support that theory.

Excitement grew Thursday as small bronze cannons were hauled to the surface and more of the ship's wooden structure was surveyed.

But definitive evidence—a bell or anchor that might have carried the vessel's name—remained elusive.

"Our first hypothesis is that this is Columbus' ship, the Vizcaina," said Rafael Ruiloba, director of the National Culture Institute, at the site near the port of Nombre de Dios, 75 miles east of Panama City.

"On the other hand, it could be one of the ships of (conquistador Francisco) Pizarro," Ruiloba said as he oversaw work at the site, about 30 meters off the coast. "One thing is sure, and that is that we are looking at one of the earliest ships of the Conquest."

Some evidence has surfaced that would support the idea that the 15 -to-20-meter vessel is indeed the Vizcaina, one of the larger boats Columbus used on his fourth and final voyage to America. Historical records indicate Columbus' crew scuttled the Vizcaina in 1503 after it sprung leaks near Portobelo, about 30 km away from Nombre de Dios.

The wreck off Nombre de Dios was made with wooden pegs rather than iron nails- an indication that it is a very old vessel. *AP*

Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health

Northern Luzon Bureau
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No . (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skylnet.net

Mindanao Bureau
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 244-1770 to 71 .
Fax no. (082) 2441771
E-mail: pdiminda@dv.weblinq.com

MALAMPAYA SHARE

Palawan set to go to Court

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The Palawan provincial council is preparing for a "showdown with the national government" if the latter does not give the supposed 40-percent revenue share of Palawan from the Malampaya natural gas project.

This decision came about after board member and president pro tempore Antonio C. Alvarez raised the issue in a privilege speech during the council's 17th regular session last Tuesday.

In an impromptu speech, Alvarez called on his colleagues to make a collective resolution giving a standby authority to Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes to hire the best lawyers when the time comes that they bring the matter to the courts.

Alvarez made his speech because of the seemingly dwindling chances of the province to get its 40-percent share from the gas exploration project.

He particularly cited the speech of President Macapagal-Arroyo in Barangay Tabangao, Batangas City, during the recent inauguration of the National Power Corp. plant, which uses the natural gas from Malampaya.

He said Reyes was one of the guests and was introduced by the President as t "governor of the province nearest to th Malampaya gas project."

Reading between the lines, Alvarez said the President seemed to point out that the province of Palawan has no territorial jurisdiction over the gas project and therefore has no rights over its proceeds, an observation also aired by Reyes upon arrival from Batangas City.

When the President visited the province last week, she assured the governor and the rest of Palaweños in her speech, that the province must receive its rightful 40-percent share from the gas exploration project.

Last week, Reyes wrote a letter to the President for further clarification about the matter but as of press time, Alvarez said no response had been received yet.

The Malampaya share has been long dreamed of by then Gov. Salvador P. Socrates, and now by Reyes, to solve the ailing economy and poverty of the province.

Malampaya started to deliver natural gas to Batangas way ahead of expected time last September and is expected to pour $10 billion into the government coffers over the next 20 years. *Geraldford Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country wil be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening. SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/11/04/01

Ateneo ordered to pay usec P1.2-M in claims

NAGA CITY—The National Labor Relations Commission has ordered the Jesuit-run Ateneo de Naga University (AdeNU) to pay at least P1.2 million in claims to a former faculty member and now an undersecretary after the arbitration body found that the school had illegally dismissed him.

On Feb. 22 last year, Fr. Joel E. Tabora, AdeNU president, informed Crisanto F. Castro Jr., undersecretary for Bicol affairs, in a letter that his contract would not be renewed.

Castro, who had served the school for 40 years, then filed an illegal dismissal complaint at the NLRC and argued that the basis of his dismissal—that he should be retired because he had reached the age of 60—was not applicable.

He said he had not yet exercised his option to retire because the obligatory retirement age is 65 years old, which is provided for by law.

But the AdeNU lawyers said that what was applied to Castro was the Ateneo de Naga Employees Retirement Plan, which pegged the retirement age at 60.

Jesus Orlando Quiñones, labor arbiter of the NLRC sub-regional arbitration office in Naga, said the lawyers of AdeNU failed to prove that the retirement plan was applicable to Castro.

"(Castro's lawyers,) having strongly argued that the Ateneo de Naga Employees Retirement Plan is applicable to (the) complainant, respondents failed to present evidence to sustain this allegation (retirement plan coverage), especially so since there was a strong opposition to it," Quiñones said.

The labor arbiter was convinced that Castro was illegally dismissed and the AdeNU management also failed to prove just and valid grounds for the termination of his employment.

Castro claimed that the AdeNU had been terminating several permanent employees and faculty members and hiring new ones on contractual basis. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Catanduanes police chief, 2 others wounded in ambush

LEGAZPI CITY—The top Philippine National Police officer of Catanduanes, a retired judge and the Commission on Elections provincial registrar, were wounded in an ambush staged by armed men believed to be goons of a political leader around 10:30 a.m., yesterday, in San Andres, Catanduanes.

Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., Bicol police chief, identified the victims as Catanduanes police provincial director Supt. Charles Calima, Comelec provincial registrar Jane Valeza and retired Judge Honesto Morales.

Calima, who is also said to be diabetic, was airlifted to Manila after suffering from severe bullet wounds in his feet and shoulders.

Valeza and Morales were rushed to the Eastern Bicol Medical Center in Catanduanes where they have already been declared safe after treatment of gunshot wounds.

They are, however, under tight guard for security reason.

At least eight armed men ambushed the three in a mountainous area of San Andres town.

The ambush was the first time in the history of Catanduanes.

Galang immediately dispatched an augmentation force to the province and ordered a hot pursuit operation against the suspects who immediately fled the crime scene after the incident.

Reports reaching Galang said that the three victims were aboard Calima's car, which he was driving, and were on their way to San Andres town proper when the armed men staged the surprise attack while the victims were negotiating a zigzag road in Barangay Luktin, San Andres.

The victims had just attended a hearing of an election-related case against Calima, which was held at the People's Law and Enforcement Board office in Virac, capital town of Catanduanes.

The camp of San Andres mayoralty candidate Leo Mendoza, who lost in the last elections, has filed counter-charges against Calima who had arrested the candidate a day before the May 11 elections on alleged vote buying.

Mendoza is the brother-in-law of incumbent San Andres town Mayor Joseph Cua.

Police intelligence sources told the INQUIRER there were prior death threats against the victims but they disregarded these because such incident had never happened in the province. *Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

SWEET PRODUCE TOOTS SOBERANO

Baguio City's market teems with vendors who make a living selling honey.

Episcopalians push for renewable energy

SAGADA, Mt. Province—The Episcopal Church of the Philippines recently inaugurated three renewable energy programs in remote villages in Nueva Vizcaya and La Union.

The 5-kilowatt Kapacnaan microhydro system in Sitio Oyao, Barangay Belance in Dupax del Norte, Nueva Vizcaya, was designed to provide lighting for 20 households in the area. The system can fully charge 10 units of 12 to 24 volt wet cell batteries every eight hours.

In Sitio Nursery, also in Belance, the ECP has installed 24 units of solar panels. The system can run a 10-horsepower submersible pump, taking in 40 gallons per minute. It is now servicing 30 hectares of vegetable land in the area.

In Barangay Lon-oy in San Gabriel, La Union, the ECP has also inaugurated the Lon-oy micro-hydro community energy system that can generate 15 kw of power.

The community is now using the system for small-scale industries like grain milling and blacksmithing.

The ECP is also expected to finish four water supply projects this year in La Union, Benguet and Pangasinan.

The Teclad-Lucutan water supply project, also in San Gabriel, will provide year-round potable water for about 180 households in Teclad and Lucutan coming from a mountain spring 5 km away.

Also in San Gabriel, a 150-meter deep well is being drilled to provide potable water for 78 households of Lipay Este village.

In Barangay Sayangan in Atok, Benguet, a mountain spring is being tapped to provide water for the Christ's Church and its nearby households.

The St. Thomas Umingan water supply project in Umingan, Pangasinan, will provide water for 60 households.

All these are in line with ECP's social concern and environmental awareness programs. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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80 houses razed in Cebu fire

CEBU CITY—About 80 houses were burned down yesterday in an afternoon fire that hit the densely populated Lower Sto. Niño Community in Barangay Basak-Pardo, this city.

Cebu City Fire Marshall Roberto Pardenilla said they could not ascertain yet what triggered the fire but considered faulty electrical wiring as the cause. They were also not yet able to give the exact amount of damages. Most of the destroyed houses were made of light materials.

The Cebu City Fire Department received the alarm at 1:45 p.m. and put it in control shortly before 4 p.m. Fire fighting units from the nearby cities of Mandaue, Talisay and Lapu-lapu came to support the Cebu City Fire Department.

It took sometime for the firefighters to control the fire as the affected area was about 100 meters from the main road and could only be reached by an alley system. Nobody was reported injured.

Paulino Sala, village chief of Barangay Basak said the fire started from the house of one Caring Labrador.

Sala has already arranged for the Sports Complex in Pardo to be used as temporary relocation site for the victims. *Debra Jane V. Magallon PDI Visayas Bureau*

'Lazy' solons get P50-M in pork

MATI, Davao Oriental—There is difference, after all, in "pork barrel" allocations for all the 212 congressmen, contrary to the promise of equal distribution by Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin.

Davao Oriental Rep. Joel Mayo Almario, chair of the House committee on Mindanao affairs, told the INQUIRER that "lazy" congressmen were given P50 million in funds under what he called the Priority Development Assistance Projects.

But hardworking ones, he said, got more than that.

"What is over and above the P50 million is a reward for those hard-working lawmakers in the House of Representatives," Almario said.

Boncodin said that each of the House members, including party-list representatives, will get a uniform P50 million in development fund, or a total of P3.3 billion, from the P780.8 billion national budget for next year, which was recently approved by the Lower Chamber.

Almario, however, said that "hardworking" congressmen like him got additional funds.

He, for instance, got an additional P5.7 million from the Department of Transportation and Communication and another P2 million from the national meat inspection office for the construction of ports and public markets here.

"That's because of my hard work. The lazy ones will only get P50 million," Almario said. *Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Man slain in collision

CAPAS, Tarlac—A man was killed while his three companions were hurt when the vehicle they were riding in collided head-on with a bus in Barangay Cutcut I here on Wednesday. Earl Daniel Cañete, 28, of Ayala Alabang, died instantly when the Ford Ranger pickup he was driving smashed into a Dangwa Tranco bus driven by Nario Adelyera. The pickup was cruising northbound but swerved to the opposite lane and hit the Manila-bound bus. Pickup passengers May Parang, Jan Claire Ramirez and Norman Ajuja were hurt and were taken to the Ramos Hospital. Police said Adelyera and the bus conductor fled. *Ronaldo Dizon, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Tribal groups' appeal

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Leaders and members of different tribal communities here have called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to immediately order the implementation of the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act. The appeal was made in a resolution by participants of a convention held to celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day here last week. Langley Segundo, chair of the Katutubong Samahan sa Cagayan Valley, said the government should now make up for lost ground after the Supreme Court affirmed the constitutionality. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Mistaken for an enemy

DAVAO CITY—A soldier killed a militiaman who was mistaken for an enemy in Maragusan, Compostela Valley province on Monday. A report reaching the regional police office here identified the slain militia as Richard Carillo. PFC Junifer Plaza, of the Army's 60th Infantry Battalion "was conducting monitoring activities" at 6:15 p.m. when he saw the armed victim. Mistaking Carillo for an enemy, Plaza immediately fired his armalite rifle. The militiaman shot back and wounded the soldier, but was later subdued by subsequent fires. A 14-year-old girl was also wounded in the crossfire. *Anthony A. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Cop kills neighbor

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—A police officer shot and killed his neighbor in Barangay 26 here on Thursday night after a short altercation. Supt. Felicisimo Khu Jr. said SP03 Quirino Rasid immediately surrendered after shooting to death Eduardo Goyo, an employee of the Cagayan Capitol College. Juliet Goyo, the victim's wife, claimed that Rasid who was drunken, suddenly barged inside their house and fired at her husband without provocation. *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Biker bumped

LUCENA CITY—A teenage biker resting at the shoulder of the highway was bumped to death by a car speeding along the diversion road in Barangay Gulang-Gulang here Thursday. Police identified the victim as Reymar Aycotco, 14, a resident of the area. Police said the victim was sitting on his parked bike when a Mitsubishi sedan driven by Necasio Redonda Jr., 29, of Biñan, Laguna, sideswiped the victim. Aycotco was immediately rushed to the Quezon Memorial Hospital but was pronounced dead on arrival. The erring driver surrendered to the police and is now detained at the city jail. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Teeners stabbed in rumble

GUMACA, Quezon—At least three teenage gang members suffered serious stabbed wounds when two warring youth gangs had a rumble here Thursday. Police said the gangs, identified as Gangland and Campo Boys Organization, engaged in a street fight in Barangay Pipisik, here. Police confiscated lead pipes and assorted bladed weapons from the arrested gang members. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Evacuee found dead

DARAGA, Albay—A Mayon evacuee was found dead in front of his house at the Anislag relocation site on Thursday for a still unknown motive, police reported here yesterday. Chief Insp. Genesius F. Molto, Daraga police chief, identified the victim as Victorino Manlapas, 44, of Barangay Budiao. Investigators said stones were thrown at the roof of Manlapas' house, which provoked him to challenge a suspect while wielding his bolo. Manlapas was found dead, with his neck slashed at 9:40 p.m. *Tony Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

1 dead in grenade blast

CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City—A person died and two others were seriously wounded when a hand grenade exploded in Sitio Iringan, Barangay Ibabang Palsabangon, Pagbilao, Quezon on Thursday evening. Police identified the victim as Loreto Ehada, 32, and resident of the barangay. Police said a certain Ernesto Tumakin was inside his house in the same village when Ehada, with a hand grenade in his hand, arrived with one John Pepito. Both were drunk, the report said. Ehada sat down, putting the grenade between his legs, unaware that the grenade's safety pin had been detached. When Ehada stood up, the grenade exploded, blasting him to death. The two other persons suffered serious injuries and are confined at the Quezon Memorial Hospital here. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

INQUIRER Mindanao
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ NICO A. ALCONABA, Bureau Chief

Rare disease afflicts 4-year-old

BY ROSA-MAY V. DE GUZMAN
Kidapawan City

SHE'S a Kristine Hermosa wannabe. She stares at herself confidently, believing that she's more beautiful than the actress. But she is no more than Kristine, and the gracefully healthy Ina in the TV soap "Pangako Sa Iyo."

Wendely Dua, the frail 4-year-old child has cancer and her doctor gave her only five more years to live.

Her mother Shirley, 31, remembers when tiny Wendely would complain of unknown harrowing pains somewhere in her fragile body. Her father Erwin, 29, then started to feel her soft gentle body with his hands.

They were surprised to feel the firm mass inside her stomach. They couldn't believe what they found. The couple was distraught. Unknown to Shirley and Erwin, the lump started to grow while she was barely 12 months old.

It was the first time they heard of the disease. It's deadly, nothing less. Their young girl is positive of Rhabdomyosarcoma, also known as cancer of the muscle, the doctor explained.

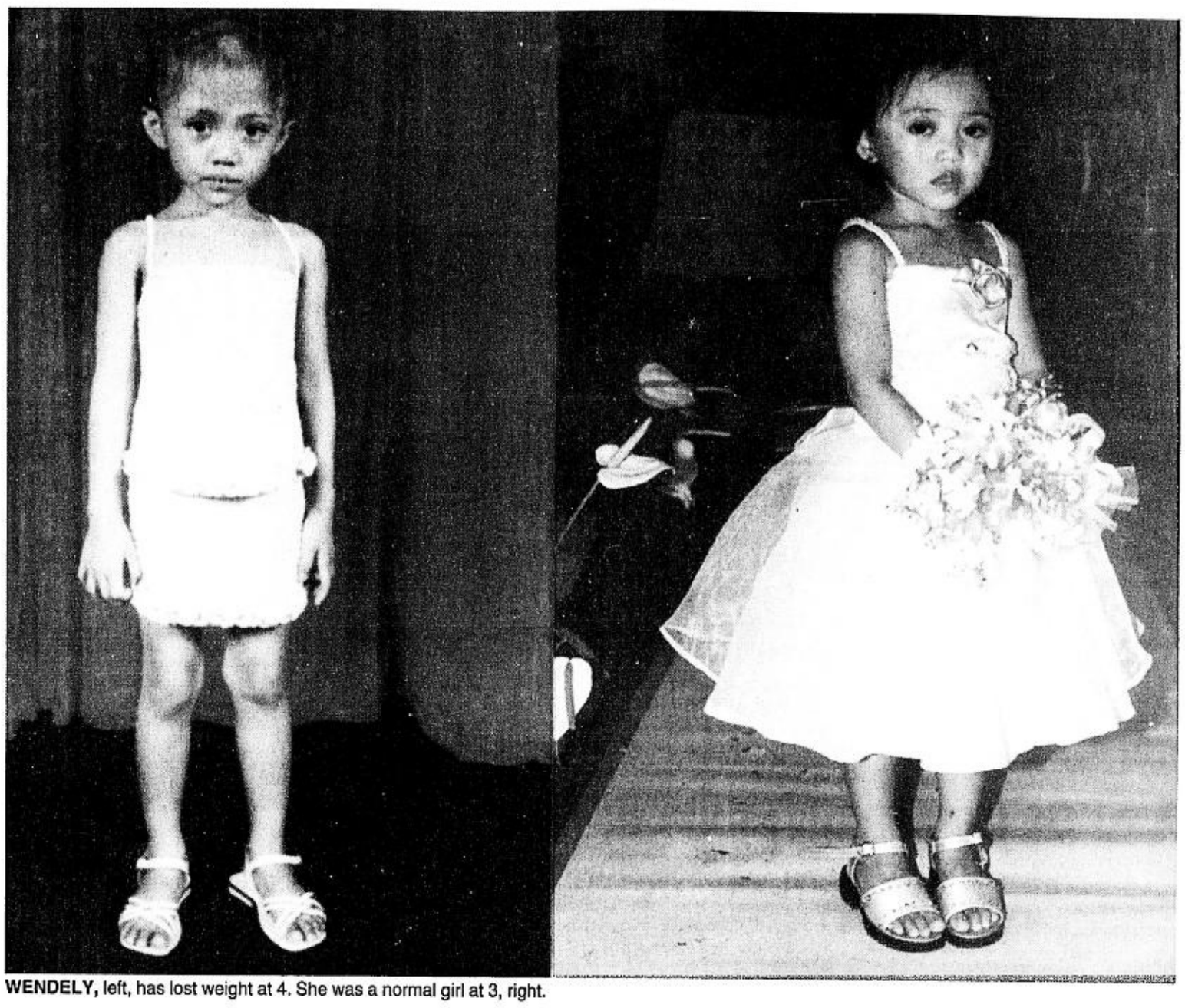
The couple crouched to their knees. It was not true, they thought at first. All they wanted then was to ask for a second opinion.

Rhabdomyosarcoma is a rare disease. It is the most common soft tissue tumor on children accounting for about five percent of all pediatric cancers. It is deadly in the case of Wendely.

Wendely is one of the few children afflicted by this unusual disease. It affects children ages 2 to 6; however, the peak incidence is in the 1 to 5-age group with 10 percent of cases occurring in the first year of life and 70 percent appearing in the first decade.

This highly malignant tumor accounts for well over half the soft tissue sarcomas in childhood. About 90 percent of deaths from Rhabdomyosarcoma occur within two years after diagnosis, and, because of this, patients surviving free from disease beyond this period are considered to be long-term survivors with a high probability of cure.

Rhabdomyosarcoma is a rare disease. It is the most common soft tissue tumor on children accounting for about five percent of all pediatric cancers. It is deadly in the case of Wendely.



WENDELY, left, has lost weight at 4. She was a normal girl at 3, right.

Unbelievable

Her doctor found some abnormalities in Wendely's stomach. She explained that the diagnosis is not good. The lump has affected her artery and before long will affect her system.

They learned about this disease only on July 14. They rushed to see Shirley's father who knows a little of *hilot* (folk healing).

Her grandfather said it was a simple *panuhot* (gastric pain). He told them to observe the child for two days. The couple, full of fear, visited the Digos Doctor's Clinic in Digos City for a checkup after two days. Dr. Procesa Amasol confirmed the tumor was growing, and was becoming larger. It was malignant, said the pediatrician.

"Wendely must be operated very soon," Amasol declared.

Though reeling in disbelief, the couple did not change their mind. It was false findings, they believed. They needed another opinion. So they sent the diagnosis to the Philippine General Hospital. To their terror, they got the same diagnosis.

The left kidney has been affected encircling the blood vessel. Nothing much to say, both proceeded to the Davao Doctor's Hospital in Davao City for a CT scan to corroborate those findings.

It was malignant, meaning it was deadly. The biopsy indicated it was 95 percent cancer. The finding was corroborated by Dr. Grace Ann Pecson.

Wendely was then scheduled for a major operation on July 21. They had no choice but to confine Wendely and prepare her for a major operation.

Unknown to surgeons, the lump has affected the lower portion of her body that had eaten up the blood vessel on her left thigh. They were certain to call off the operation. That operation could cause her death. They settled to free the left kidney, which was affected by the growing tumor. In due time, the doctors said, as soon as little Wendely could take the pangs of similar operation. Not now.

Tracing the root

It is all in the family. Shirley remembers her grandmother who died of leukemia when she was a sixth grader. Since their marriage, the couple has been practicing healthy living. No smoking, no drinking, and they even live in the safest place on earth away from the harsh effects of urban living.

Wendely was so little she did not know what was happening. What she knows is that they went to see the doctor. She also does now know about her deadly condition. Her parents, Shirley and Erwin, could not think about their expenses. All they wanted was to see their eldest kicking, jumping with joy and appreciating the beauty of life, and give what is due her, that in the future she be the person she wanted to be.

Erwin works as a technician in radio dxND of the Notre Dame Broadcasting Corp. based in Kidapawan City. Shirley receives a meager salary teaching at the Perez Elementary School, near Mt. Apo. They receive about P10,000 monthly excluding insurances, loans, and other miscellaneous fees when their salaries are combined. It isn't enough.

Erwin has consumed his leave of absences. Now he gets nothing. He has gone on an indefinite leave to take care of Wendely. Shirley, the sole breadwinner of the family now, has frequently asked the permission of the principal to be absent and give her time and consideration so she could take care of her ailing child, to comfort her. She was granted that as long she attended to some assignments that she has been able to comply with.

They pretended that there was no problem in taking care of Wendely. The problem does not lie there, however. They need money. They need help.

It is not only Wendely whom they take care of. The couple has another child, 8-month-old Wayla, who needs proper attention that also entails a demanding budget.

The family is now indebted to people who have lend them hundreds of thousands of pesos. Some friends and officemates have donated little yet helpful money. Shirley said she has yet to seek support from the government or just anybody.

More money is needed for Wendely's antibiotics, blood transfusion, supplies, and other hospital bills. The chemotherapy alone would need tens of thousand of pesos.

The doctors had already isolated her for fear that she might be infected with other diseases. Hers is one tough, deadly cancer that needs care from doctors who take turns to attend to her case.

The couple have already rented a private room at the Davao Doctor's Hospital. A week's stay costs them a whopping P10,000. Wendely seemed better, but inside her the malign tumor gnaws. Her eyes have become larger, her hair has gone bald, her body has become thinner and she has stopped growing.

Private room

When she visited radio dxND one fine day, Wendely was prettier than pink. As she stared at the golden sun she wished to be like a normal 4-year-old: playful and healthy. Like her backless top, one could imagine how she sees the future. However, if none of the medications are met, she will likely fall.

She is set for another torturous chemotherapy. She will again stop craving for food, if not for the watchful eyes of her parents. She will again lose hope. She will again envy Kristine of her god-gift sound and beauty.

Wendely is due for a major operation on the first week of November. No one knows what will happen to her. But early on, the doctor said it was malignant. She was given five years to live.

The priest who refuses to die

BY FERDINAND ZUASOLA
Davao Oriental

IN WHAT way can we fight back? The thing is if we are to fight back the kid nappers, what tools are we going to use against them? Firearms? That's going to be an endless struggle," says Fr. Marcelino Benebaye, parish priest of the Italian congregation Don Bosco, in the capital town of Mati.

Fr. Benebaye was responding to a call by Catholic bishops who attended last week's 11th Mindanao Sulu Pastoral conference in Malaybalay City. The call: All priests, especially those assigned in conflict areas should "resist any abduction or kidnapping, if need be die rather than cooperate."

"Why, will it do good fighting back (the kidnappers)? Will they stop kidnapping you because you fight back? Most likely we'll end up being killed if we are to fight back because they are presumably heavily armed," Benebaye said.

"I'd rather use my negotiation skills," he added.

For Benebaye, the best way to avoid kidnapping is not to arm the religious but to take extra precautions that would not make them standout targets such as walking alone or being in secluded places.

He said some priests here have opted to arm themselves and join shooting clubs to hone their shooting skills as self-defense in time of kidnap attempts.

He added that at the height of military offensives against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front camps in neighboring Tarragona town and a series of bombings in this capital town last year, priests, including Mati Bishop Patricio Alo, were given two military escorts each to shield themselves from kidnappers.

Benebaye said arming the priests and bishops would only aggravate the problem.

"It will make us more vulnerable... they will be after our firearms," he said.

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Ms Cheerful despite TV hassles

(From page A1)

her weekly program "May Gloria ang Bukas Mo."

On vacation in this summer haven since Thursday, a break marked by "10 hours of welcome sleep" and two games of golf, the President sat patiently through the glitch that attended the live telecast of the program from the Mansion.

One of her aides said the program, which had been scheduled for simulcast over the government station Nation Broadcasting Network 4 and ABS-CBN, started late because no one had advised the latter about it.

"So we had to wait," the aide said in Filipino. "She was ready by 8 a.m., when the program was supposed to start. But she sat smiling through the delay, to our relief."

The live telecast started about 45 minutes behind schedule and after some hasty script changes.

Another aide said, however, that it was the First Family's scheduled trip back to Manila today that was "gladdening our hearts."

Many members of the President's close-in security detail and support staff returned with her from the state visit to China last week and were sent straight to Baguio.

Their replacements were delayed because of the long All Saints' Day holiday, the aide explained.

"What movies are showing in this city? I'd like to watch something," a member of the Presidential Security Group was overheard telling another. "I'd like to go to town. I've been with the President since her Beijing trip and I need some time off."

Under-traveled

During the program, the President said that "by international standards, I am under-traveled."

"Look at (Indonesian President) Megawati and (Thai Prime Minister) Thaksin," she said. "The moment they took their seats, they went around Asia."

But she said she was keeping her trips overseas to a minimum and taking only those she deemed absolutely necessary.

The President leaves this afternoon for Brunei to attend the leaders' summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. It is her seventh trip abroad so far.

Of the other presidents, Fidel Ramos was tops in the field, with a record of 35 foreign trips.

Corazon Aquino, whose administration was beset by coup attempts, made 10 such trips, and Joseph Estrada, whose term was cut short, made eight.

The President said her first priority when she took power in January was the domestic situation. Thus, she said, she started embarking on foreign trips only in August.

She went on a state visit to Malaysia on Aug. 7-9, "because of (that country's) big help in the peace talks" between her administration and the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

She made a state visit to Brunei on Aug. 22-24 and another to Singapore on Aug. 24-26 to revive the East Asean Growth Area and entice investments.

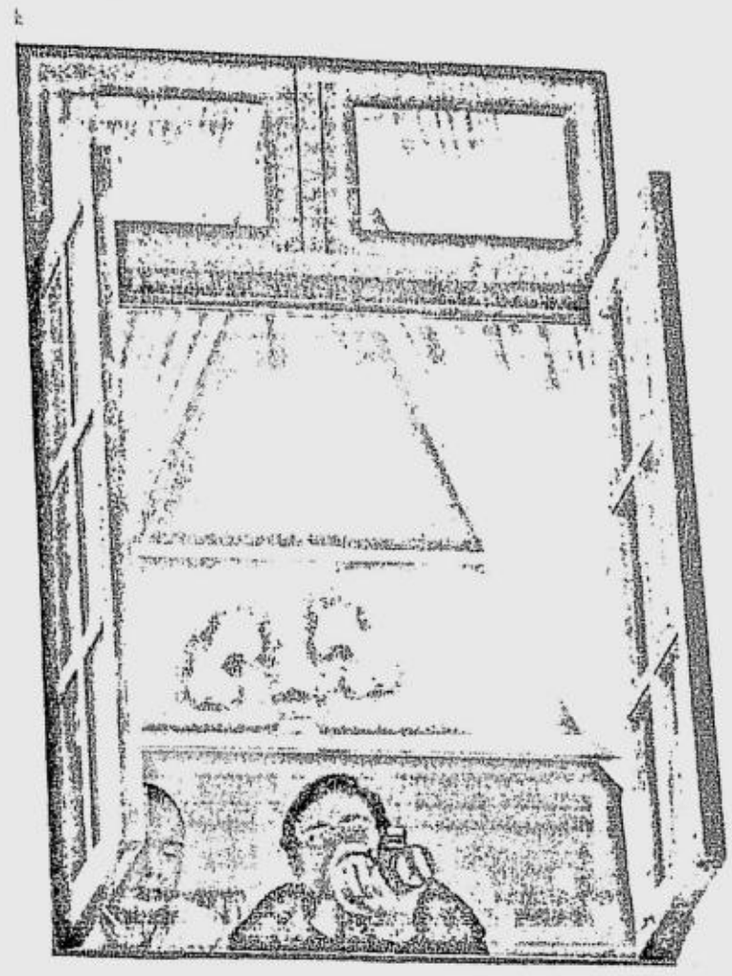
The President went on a working visit to Japan on Sept. 12-15 and attended the leaders' summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation in Shanghai on Oct. 19-21.

Before her state visit to China on Oct. 28-31, she wrapped up an official visit to Hong Kong.

Her trip to Brunei will take two days. She will be in Indonesia on Nov. 12-13 and will make a working visit to the United States, including a meeting with US President George W. Bush, on Nov. 18-20. Then she will proceed to a speaking engagement in Mexico.

"If I can avoid going out, I will," the President said, adding that her usual retinue did not exceed 50 persons so as to cut costs.

She pointed out that the advantage of getting to meet her counterparts personally was that they could later confer by phone across the seas.



MR. LOW-KEY keeps out of camera range but gets behind it.

EDWIN BACASMAS

A RADIANT President after "10 hours of welcome sleep."

Low-key

If the President was Ms Cheerful, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo was Mr. Low-key.

He was not among the audience at the courtyard when "May Gloria" was telecast, and chose to watch his wife on TV in the Mansion drawing room.

Arroyo had earlier canceled his public service broadcasts, and during the family vacation in Baguio he consciously avoided the public eye.

He lagged behind the President during a golf game on Friday at the Camp John Hay golf course. He politely declined interviews, apparently sticking with his decision to stay away from the limelight throughout his wife's term.

Arroyo had breakfast with some aides and members of the media, and before the program started he sat with close friends such as the President's personal publicist, Manila Times publisher Dante Ang, and guests including Welson Chua, father of the slain student Mark Welson Chua.

After the program Arroyo stepped out of the drawing room to congratulate his wife.

"You were very pretty," he told her, to the delight of those present. ***With a report from Carlito Pablo***

'I wont't retire Mendoza'

(From page A1)

jail during the American Prohibition.

She also said Mendoza was making great strides in the campaign against the kidnapping syndicates preying on the Chinese-Filipino community.

Asked by program anchor Solita "Winnie" Monsod whether she was satisfied with Mendoza's performance, the President said: "Yes. Yes, yes, yes."

She vouched for Mendoza's integrity, saying he had not been linked to organized crime like kidnapping and drug trafficking. "Even in the past, his name has never been mentioned in these," she said.

In January, Mendoza, then PNP deputy director general and head of the Philippine Transnational Crime Center, was the most senior police officer to withdraw support from President Joseph Estrada.

He took over Camp Crame at the height of the "People Power II" street protests, when the Armed Forces also withdrew support from Estrada.

Mendoza, who was a guest at Ms Macapagal's program, later told reporters: "I serve at the pleasure of the President. *Palagay ko naman siya ang mas nakakaalam diyan* (I think she is more capable of assessing my performance)."

He said he was "really happy that the President made some clarification" regarding the leadership of the PNP. "This is good for the public and our policemen," he added.

Still Jun

Even if Mendoza serves a full four-year term, "his successor will still be Jun Ebdane," the President said.

She said Ebdane was "very young" and "can wait" for his turn as PNP chief.

Ebdane, a member of PMA Class of 1970, is currently the No. 2 man in the PNP and in charge of anti-kidnapping operations. He will reach mandatory retirement age in December 2004.

When the then PNP chief Panfilo Lacson, a staunch Estrada ally, was forced to resign his post in January, he reportedly asked Ms Macapagal to name Ebdane as his successor.

PNP insiders are aware that now Senator Lacson holds Ebdane in high regard. But Ebdane is publicly identified more with Fidel Ramos, having served the former President as deputy chief of the Presidential Security Group.

The soft-spoken Mendoza denied there had been demoralization in the PNP because of the President's statement regarding Ebdane.

He said he had been in the police service "for the last 33 years," and "people in uniform normally tease each other, but that's all."

Mendoza also said he had a good working relationship with Ebdane.

"General Ebdane is a very professional officer," he said. "When you're a professional you don't speculate, you dedicate your efforts and you focus on work, on your job, not on anything else. That's how we operate in the PNP."

Back at the ranch

The wrinkle over the PNP leadership having been smoothed out, the President's men are still speaking in discordant voices about the coup rumors.

Her spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao yesterday said the statement issued Friday by the ruling Lakas-NUCD on the alleged failed recruitment of two Air Force pilots "was not cleared at all by the party leaders," Ramos and Speaker Jose de Venecia.

According to the statement released by Lakas media adviser Ed Malay, leaders of the Young Officers Union tried to recruit the pilots as part of a plot to mount a coup against the administration.

Malay said the information was based on a military intelligence report.

But Tiglao issued his own statement, saying the Lakas statement had been prepared by "an overenthusiastic but misinformed media consultant, and was simply culled from idle coffee-shop gossip without any basis in fact nor in any military intelligence report."

He said the President as well as her predecessors Ramos and Corazon Aquino were appealing to the media not to entertain any more talk about coup plots against the administration.

He formulated their appeal thus: "Let's stop this coup talk idiocy.

"We are just shooting ourselves in the foot, creating a grossly inaccurate image to investors that our country's democracy is unstable."

YOU chair Supt. Rafael Cardeño had denied Lakas' claim that his group had tried to enlist two pilots for a coup attempt.

But in a phone interview Friday, Cardeño said the administration was vulnerable to coup rumors because the President was surrounded by power blocs competing with one another for influence.

He named these blocs as the military, business and civil-society groups, and said: "Actually, she's in a fix. She has all the good intentions but she cannot go all-out because of the people around her."

But Tiglao said Cardeño's analysis smacked of "utter naivete about the Philippine political system."

"Any college Political Science 101 student would know that the powers of a legitimate Philippine presidency are awesome to override any so-called power bloc in the country," he said.

He pointed out that far from being in a fix, the President had been "rapidly fixing a lot of things that have been wrong in this country, from the nitty-gritty problems as red tape to correcting past biases against the poor, to reforming the country's macro-economy."

He also said that "to babble about 'contending power blocs' is to dabble in melodramatic political fantasy."

During the 1998 presidential elections, Tiglao, then Manila bureau chief of the Far Eastern Economic Review, wrote a piece about the blocs which could exert influence on then candidate Estrada.

He said these included, among others, the Zamora brothers and the so-called San Juan group of Estrada's personal friends.

In his statement yesterday, Tiglao said, "the only 'power blocs' the President bows to are the Constitution and the Filipino people's will."

Seeing red

The Ibon Foundation Inc. yesterday took offense at Tiglao's broadside Friday that it was "an ideologically leftwing group," and that it was "against any government."

Ibon had gotten Tiglao's goat because of the results of its Oct. 1-27 survey showing that the President was losing the support of Metro Manila residents because of the worsening economic situation.

"Malacañang should pay attention to figures instead of attacking and red-baiting its critics," Ibon said in a statement.

It stressed that its latest survey covered Metro Manila and not the whole country, and "therefore shows a different result from other recently conducted national surveys."

"Metro Manilans are expectedly more immediately affected by coup rumors and more critical of the economic situation, thus the much lower net approval rating given by the respondents," Ibon said. "This is the effect of continuous economic difficulty and political instability and should be worrisome for Malacañang."

To Tiglao's statement that Ibon did not have the polling expertise of such outfits as Pulse Asia Inc. and Social Weather Stations, the foundation said it had been conducting surveys "mainly on economic issues for more than 10 years," using the stratified random sampling method.

It said its surveys were conducted by trained sociologists "as a matter of public interest," and were "not commissioned by anyone."

Ibon described itself as "an independent research think tank (whose) responsibility is to delve into issues and government policies and to point out where these run counter to the public interest, most especially the poor."

"We hope to contribute in this manner to build democracy and ensure an accountable government," it said. "Instead of paying attention to the figures presented in the survey, Tiglao has chosen to red-bait the Ibon Foundation, making him the first government official to do so in (its) 23-year history. This makes him worse than a Marcos or an Estrada."

Tiglao worked with Ibon as a writer during the Marcos regime. ***With reports from Robert Abaño, Jovelyn Reyes and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Whiz kids know their current events

(From page A1)

And at a precocious young age, officially recognized gifted children, like Tumbocon, De la Fuente and Katrina Albano, 11, have a fairly good understanding of the problems plaguing the country and the world.

"If you were the country's president or the UN secretary general, what would be your top priority?" the INQUIRER asked each of them.

They were unanimous on the first presidential order they would issue: Rid Metro Manila of its mounting piles of garbage.

"I'll have the garbage all cleaned up and then have more trees planted," Katrina, a Grade 6 pupil at the Poveda Learning Center, replied.

She is the author of "Scribbles and Wiggles," a collection of poems that left UP professors amazed for their perfect rhyme and meter. She wrote some of the poems when she was 6.

Nurturing such whiz kids is the mission of the Philippine Association of the Gifted (PAG), a non-stock and nonprofit organization founded by a circle of medical doctors, psychologists, educators and parents in 1994.

Week of the Gifted

The PAG, under the presidency of Dr. Perla Santos Ocampo, will mark the National Week of the Gifted with a daylong convention on Nov. 26 at the Manila Galleria Suites in Pasig City.

The convention's main speaker is Dr. Nancy Robinson, an esteemed American expert on gifted children. She chairs the Advisory Committee on Exceptional Children under the US Department of State's Office of Overseas Schools.

Robinson will discuss the evolving standards of "giftedness" in children and new methods in dealing with their educational, social, emotional and even spiritual needs, particularly in the Philippine setting.

PAG defines a "gifted person" as someone who exhibits "at least above average intellectual ability" and demonstrates "superior achievement and special ability" in verbal communication, math and logic, bodily skills or athleticism, music and leadership.

To be considered a gifted person, one must also show "emotional stability, an internal life system of values and internal control at an early age."

Emmanuel Albano, Katrina's father and PAG vice president representing the parents, summed up PAG's reason for being: "It's a myth that gifted children can realize their full potential by themselves and that don't need any sustained assistance."

"We observe Gifted Week to emphasize the need to enhance whatever the talents these children have so that they could eventually give more to society as productive individuals," he said. "Ultimately we hope to popularize the concept of giftedness."

Within the PAG is the Parents Support Group, which currently takes the lead in PAG's fund-raising projects. Proceeds go to various programs such as scholarships, training programs for teachers and other professionals advocating child giftedness, awareness campaigns, researches and networking with related agencies here and abroad.

The most exciting of these projects involve the whiz kids themselves, like annual summer camps that include workshops on painting, writing, computers, science and technology, and sports competitions—"all designed to boost their self-confidence," Albano said.

PAG prodigies, like Ryan, Katrina and Jonathan, currently number about 50, some of whom were discovered in the provinces.

Qualifying tests

To be recognized as gifted, the parents should submit their candidate son or daughter to a series of written and oral tests, interviews by child psychologists and a final evaluation by the PAG board of directors.

"The earlier a parent recognizes giftedness, the better—when the child is only 3-4 years old and not as old as 9 or 10 when he or she already goes on selective learning," Albano said.

Parenting a gifted child requires its own set of "training and counseling," too, according to Dr. Elizabeth Lao Tumbocon, Ryan's mother.

While parents swell with pride in seeing their children excel in school, parents should recognize the "pressures" on their extraordinary boys and girls, Tumbocon said.

"Because of their talents and skills, gifted children become objects of envy by other kids," she warned.

"They easily get bored once they've mastered a lesson way ahead of the class. And usually their classmates and even their teachers assume that because they are brilliant in one subject, they are already good in everything. But as parents we should see to it they grow up as normally as possible."

Appetite for knowledge

Inez Jorge, whose daughter Mikli, 10, made it to PAG's list, said parents should be ready to satisfy their children's appetite for knowledge.

"They ask a lot of questions which once answered would often lead to another series of questions," Jorge said.

Studies have shown that gifted persons account for only 3 percent of the population of any country. Out of 100 children, three to five may be "potentially gifted"—thanks largely to proper rearing, good nutrition, a creative home environment and, arguably, fine genes.

According to Albano, there is a "growing demand" for more schools and professionals devoted to the field of child giftedness.

There are study programs catering to the gifted at the Ateneo de Manila and at the National Center for the Arts on Mt. Makiling in Laguna.

Their public school counterpart is the Special Education Program (SPED) of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports.

There are also specialized academic groups like the Math Teachers Association of the Philippines and the Math Trainors Guild. *(Interested parties can reach the PAG at 526-1708, 521-8450 loc. 2123, or at pagifted@i-next.net. Website: www.pagifted.com)*

US deports 2 Filipinos deemed biohazards

(From page A1)

back to the Philippines on Thursday.

No charges were filed against the Filipinos whose identities were withheld by the US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

The INS said the two "withdrew their application" to enter the United States after intense interrogation by immigration agents.

They were deported on Thursday and took a 12:30 p.m. flight back to Manila.

They arrived in Seattle at 6 a.m. on Wednesday aboard a Northwest Airlines flight originating from Manila via Tokyo.

The 747-200 aircraft they took was "contained" by US authorities upon arrival at the Seattle airport after the Federal Bureau of Investigation received reports "that some specific people" could possibly be carrying hazardous biochemicals.

A two-hour search yielded nothing.

Reports said the two men were handcuffed as they were taken away from the aircraft and that other Filipinos aboard the plane were shaking their heads in disbelief.

The Filipinos were both carrying 10-year tourist visas.

Bob Okin, INS deputy district director for Seattle, did not say whether the visas of the two Filipinos were canceled by the US government before they were deported. He refused to divulge details of their investigation.

But he said the two Filipinos are in their mid 20s.

Ray Lauer, FBI-Seattle spokesperson, tried to downplay the incident but he admitted that reports indicated that the two men were "dressed a little oddly in Asian military (beige) camouflage."

Authorities did not say why the two men decided to withdraw their application to enter the States.

Visitors with tourist and other visas coming to the States are usually asked questions upon arrival and are required to fill out forms specifying their intention in visiting the country.

The deportation of the two Filipinos came as officials confirmed America's 17th anthrax case—an editor of the New York Post. The Bush administration, its bioterrorism probe stymied, issued a fresh appeal to the public to help identify the culprits behind the attack.

"When we get the facts, we'll share it with the American people," President George W. Bush pledged on Friday.

FBI Director Robert Mueller conceded on Friday that it was still too early to say if the origin of the deadly bacteria was domestic or foreign.

Mueller said the $1-million reward for information that could snare the so-called "terrorists" behind the anthrax attack had "not yielded as many leads as we had hoped."

"I urge every American to join us in tracking down those responsible for the anthrax and Sept. 11 attacks," said Mueller, adding that the investigation was focusing intensely on the death from anthrax of Kathy Nguyen, a Vietnamese immigrant in New York.

Nguyen's case has mystified authorities because she had no known connection to the postal service, Congress or media companies—the targets of three known anthrax-laced letters.

In a sign of alarm, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said officials were making efforts to acquire doses of British- or Russian-made anthrax vaccines to help protect the people against the germ warfare weapon.

In the latest case in New York, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the New York Post editor developed cutaneous (skin) anthrax and was now being treated with antibiotics and is expected to recover fully from the infection.

Overseas, preliminary tests showed that spores were present in mail sent to Pakistan's largest newspaper and to a government office in India. ***With reports from AP, Reuters and AFP***

(Editor's note: Mr. Ramas writes for PhilNews, a Filipino community paper based in Los Angeles.)

GAME 6 TODAY

Johnson, Schilling bother NY

PHOENIX—Now comes the tough part for the Yankees: finding a way to get past either Randy Johnson or Curt Schilling this weekend.

It's easier to find water in the desert than a Yankees' rally at Bank One Ballpark, where they had one run and six hits in losing the first two games of the World Series last weekend.

"Hopefully, the confidence we've gotten out of these last three games will help us," New York manager Joe Torre said Friday. "We certainly got manhandled the last time we were here."

Schilling shut down the Yankees in the opener, and Johnson jumped them in Game 2, becoming at age 38 the oldest pitcher to throw a shutout in the Series.

Not that the Yankees broke out in New York against Brian Anderson, Schilling and Miguel Batistsa. The only reason the Yankees have a 3-2 lead is their success against the Diamondbacks' battered bullpen, getting those dramatic two-out, two-run game-tying home runs in the ninth from Tino Martinez in Game 4 and Scott Brosius in Game 5.

JOHNSON

New York is batting just .177 with 10 runs and 28 hits. That's just five off the record-low hits for the first five games of a World Series, a mark set by the 1906 Chicago White Sox and matched by the 1969 Baltimore Orioles, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Take away the ninth-inning magic and it's even worse: During the first eight innings, the Yankees are hitting..154 (21-for-136), scoring four runs. From the ninth inning on, they're batting .286 (8-for-28) with six runs.

"Obviously, you know we realize as a pitching staff, we are not swinging the bats great right now," said Andy Pettitte, who pitches against Johnson in Game 6 Saturday night (Sunday morning in Manila). "We know that tomorrow night we are going to have to scratch and claw for every run that we are able to get."

Last Sunday, Pettitte was the only left-handed hitter in the Yankees' lineup. Torre benched Martinez in favor of Randy Velarde at first base and sat outfielders Paul O'Neill and David Justice while Shane Spencer and Chuck Knoblauch played.

During the last four regular seasons, left-handers hit .178 against Johnson with one homer in 360 at-bats. Martinez, who struck out in his only at-bat against the Big Unit, will play because he led the Yankees with 34 homers and 113 RBIs.

Neither team has hit in the clutch. The Yankees are 3-for-26 (.207) with runners in scoring position. *AP*

Non-starter

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

HAVING a non-starter in a race rarely happens but when it does, it's really frustrating.

We think that the ones who usually get affected are the betting public but it's really the owner who is agonized by such incident.

Take for example what happened to Do It David last Oct. 27 at San Lazaro.

Do It David was declared a non-starter when the gate the colt was assigned to start didn't open simultaneously with the rest.

When the horse finally wiggled out of the box, it went after the pacesetter being a natural fast starter, and even took the lead before fagging out at the stretch and eventually ending up second.

We learned that although Do It David claimed the No. 2 spot, the corresponding prize allotted to it was negated because the horse was considered as a non-starter

Napagod na yung kabayo wala pang premyong nakuha.

Like any other horse owner, I'm sure sportsman-businessman Putch Puyat frowned on that.

At any rate, the Philracom or the racing clubs (MJCI and PRCI) should let the betting public know the rules and regulations regarding non-starters to avoid any further inconvenience in the future.

Who shoud be blamed for that Do It David incident? Isn't the MJCI liable for that? *Wala bang multa sa* club *kung saan nangyari ang insidente*?

Things like those need clear and precise answers. What if it happens in a major race, say the coming Marho-Breeders' Cup?

What if Wind Blown or any other top-rated horses suffer the same fate as Do It David? *Kagulo yan sigurado*!

The Philracom must act now. *Dapat siguro magpakita naman ng pruweba itong si* Andrew Sanchez!

***

We got a very timely e-mail from Geronimo A. Tobias of Paco, Manila. Mr. Tobias was among those who bet on Do It David when it was declared as "NS."

He's got a suggestion and it's directed to the MJC. "*Dapat siguro palitan na ng* Manila Jockey Club *ang luma nitong* starting gate *para di na maulit ang nangyari kay* Do It David," he said.

***

Myther and Friends, that popular pub along Adriatico, might soon have a Friday Club.

While it's mostly mediamen who frequent the place on Thursdays, it's going to be Myther Bunag's buddies from the horse racing world like Jun Almeda, Jimmy Dilag, Roger Tandiama, Sonny Arevalo and Joey Nolasco who'll be there on Fridays.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. The Warrior 2. Patikim 3. Lorna 4. Battle Tested 5. Golden Quest

Race 2—1. I Swear 2. Spinning Bullet

Race 3—1. Shuttler 2. Aliw 3. Do It David 4. Dangerous Beauty 5. Wing Commander

Race 4—1. Flaming Bullet 2. Materiales Fuertes 3. Family Task

Race 5—1. Palaban 2. I Dare You 3. Aprey's Choice 4. Smart Kevin 5. Imperial Passion

Race 6—1. Mark's Treasure 2. Hydrogas 3. Kentucky Gold 4. Peace Offering 5. Hollywood Park 6. Simpatika

Race 7—1. Make Your Mark 2. Reagl Reality 3. Precious Time 4. Party Princess

Race 8—1. Staunch Ally 2. Lyonnais 3. The Fox 4. Master Ijhay 5. Coventina

Race 9—1. North Shine 2. Spirited Lady 3. Ahoy There 4. King Edward 5. Ladies' Night

Race 10—1. Kitty Hawk 2. Aim and Fire 3. Dynamite Miss 4. Silver Rose

Race 11—1. Speed Master 2. Bull Rider 3. Bound to Be 4. Morena 5. Gold Pyramid

Race 12—1. Flash Back 2. Tayp Ko Yan 3. Bemedalled Ruler 4. Dynamite Jack 5. Michael's Way

Race 13—1. Ayos Ba There/Smooth Sailing 2. El Magnifico 3. Iron Fist 4. True to Life 5. Two Thumbs Up

Race 14—1. Burning Light 2. Dynasty 3. All Grace 4. Pistol Red 5. Jackpot Baby 6. Arch Rival

Roller hockey league starts

MIRINDA Orange beat 7Up Green 1-0 as the Pepsi Cup In-Line Roller Hockey League opened it's second season recently at GameworX, fourth level of Festival Supermall, Filinvest Alabang Muntinlupa City.

Showing speed on the floor, Mirinda Orange emerged the favorite against three other teams for the December championship.

In the Juniors Division, 7Up Yellow Gold defeated Diet Pepsi Red, 4-3.

In the third game, Mirinda Orange subdued 7Up Green, 10-5, while Mountain Dew Yellow Gold nipped Pepsi Blue, 4-3, in the senior division.

Pepsi Cola Marketing Services Manager Willy Racaza was the guest of honor in the opening ceremonies. He was joined by GameworX President Jesus "Jun" Avecilla, General Manager Vinia Yabut and Marketing Officer Christian Datol

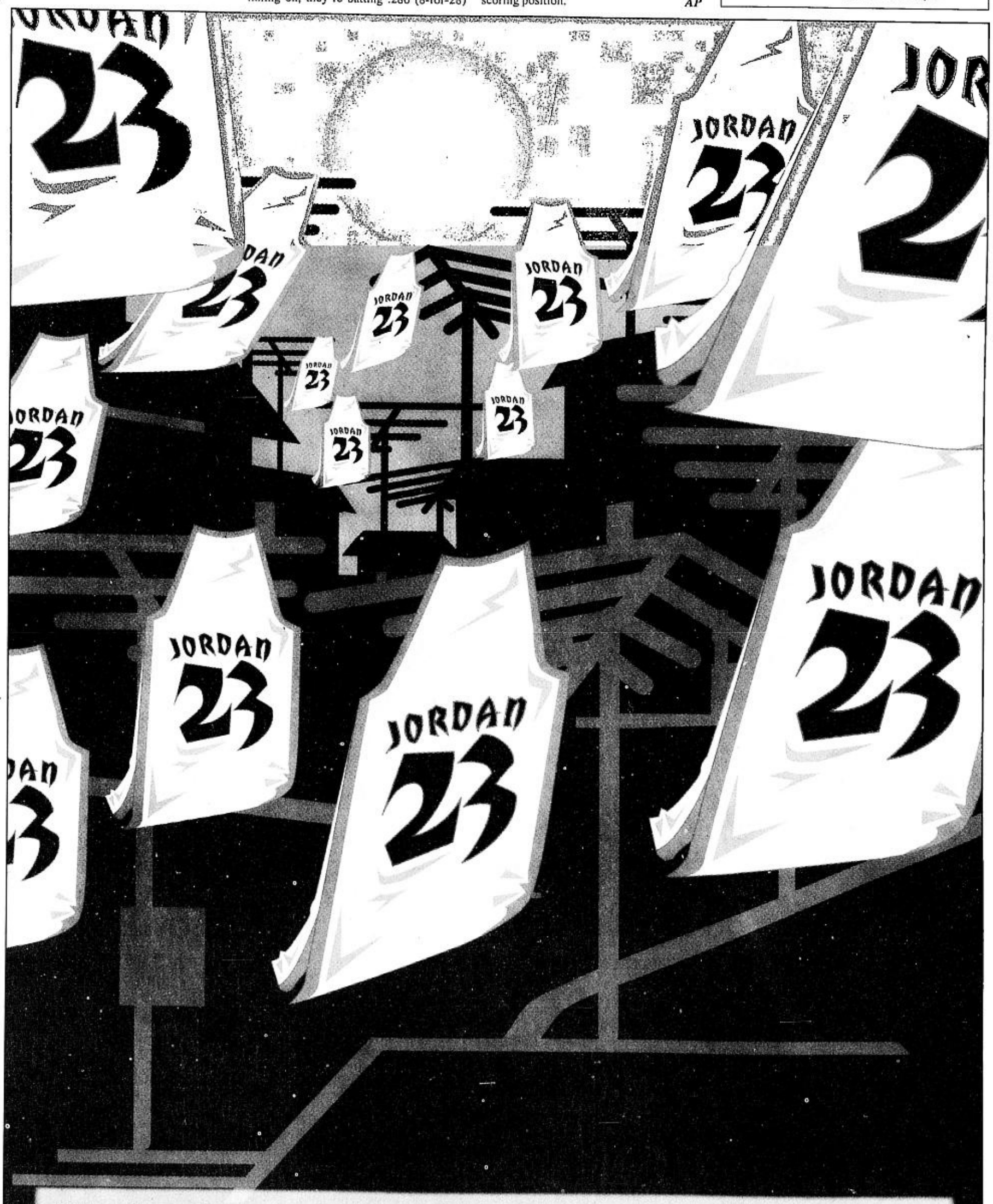
RP sluggers join World Cup

WHEN the Philippines competes in the 34th World Cup of Baseball, it will not only be for the purpose of honoring a commitment but to project its image as one of the best baseball-playing countries in the world as well.

The Philippines, in fact, has been invited for the first time since the World Cup's first staging in 1938 on the strength of its no. 5 ranking in Asia and its being the winner of Asia Cup, a tournament for International Baseball Federation member countries in Southeast Asia, South Asia and Middle East.

It is one of only four Asian countries that will see action in the 16-team field along with Japan, South Korea and Chinese Taipei in this 2001 edition of the series scheduled Nov. 6-18 in Taipei.

"Having been invited to this prestigious tournament is already an honor because it only indicates the International Baseball Federation's recognition to our being one of the 16 baseball-playing countries in the world today," Philippine Amateur Baseball Association president Hector Navasero said on the eve of the national team's departure for Taipei.



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LBC Batangas tackles Negros

GAMES TODAY (La Salle Lipa Sentrum)
3 p.m.—Nueva Ecija vs TPG Davao
5:30 p.m.—Negros vs LBC Batangas

THE BEST of the North meets its counterpart from the South when LBC Batangas and Negros collide at 5:30 p.m. today in the resumption of the MBA Second Phase at the La Salle Lipa Sentrum.

The LBC Batangas Blades hold sway in the Northern Conference with a 9-win, 1-loss record, while the Negros Slashers reign in the Southern Conference with an 8-2 mark.

This will be the first meeting between the two talent-laden teams, which love to run and gun, both bidding to emerge elimination round topnotchers.

The No. 1 qualifiers will have the luxury of watching the second and third ranked teams dispute the right to challenge them for the conference titles.

MBA games are being telecast live over National Broadcasting Network 4 Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. *Roy Luarca*

PBA CUP

3 teams seek 'twice' edge

STANDINGS	W	L
Sta. Lucia	8	3
Talk N' Text	7	4
Shell	6	4
San Miguel	6	5
Pop Cola	6	5
Red Bull	5	6
Ginebra	5	7
Alaska	4	7
Purefoods	4	7
Tanduay	4	7

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
4:05 p.m.—Alaska vs Pop Cola
6:10 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Shell

THREE teams eyeing the twice-to-beat privilege resume their respective campaign as the PBA Governors Cup elimininations near the homestretch today at the Araneta Coliseum.

Only pacesetter Sta. Lucia Realty is assured of the incentive, leaving the rest of the field scrambling for premier position in the 8-team quarterfinals.

Despite their lofty position, the Realtors, who lost 127-118 in double overtime against Purefoods last Oct. 31, aren't taking things lightly as they collide with the Shell Turbochargers at 6:10 p.m.

A win by the Turbochargers will allow them to tie Talk N' Text (7-4) in second place and a victory away from a slot in the Magic Four and the twice-to-beat bonus.

RONQUILLO

Shell winds up its eliminations campaign against Purefoods (Nov. 9) and Alaska (Nov. 14), respectively.

"I just wish that the team remains healthy," said Shell mentor Perry Ronquillo, a leading candidate as coach of the Asiad-bound PBA All-Stars. Shell downed Red Bull, 86-71, in its last game last Oct. 28.

Pop Cola also tries to inch closer to the Magic Four as it tackles Alaska in the opener at 4:05 p.m. The Panthers are sporting a 6-5 card, while the Aces are tied with Purefoods and Tanduay in 8th to 10th places with four wins against seven losses.

Roselle Ellis will be tested by Alaska's Ron Riley but the key is local support. Slotman Pooch Juinio, Johnny Abarrientos and Jojo Lastimosa cross swords for the nth time against their former teammates.

Kenneth Duremdes and Rodney Santos will banner the Aces. Don Allado, James Walkvist and wide-bodied Ali Peek will give Alaska the needed muscle underneath.

Askia Jones clashes with Sta. Lucia's prolific import Damian Owens in the first game. *Dennis U. Eroa*

Welcoat, Blu shine

BY DENNIS EROA

GAMES TUESDAY (Makati Coliseum)
3:30 p.m.—Kutitap vs Montaña Jewels
5:30 p.m.—Shark vs Blu Detergent

BEMEDALLED Welcoat Paints and title-hungry Blu Detergent posted overpowering wins yesterday at the start of the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Welcoat drubbed Ana Freezers, 95-60, while Blu rode on the fiery shows of Tristan Codamon and Egay Billones to frustrate Kutitap Toothpaste, 72-62, to share the early leadership.

With Melvin Mamaclay hitting 11 points, the Paintmasters never relinquished a 20-12 first quarter lead over the Freezer Kings, who failed to put up a semblance of a fight due to the sluggish plays of Dondon Mendoza, Leo Villar, Paul Artadi and Roland Pascual.

Pro-bound Ren Ren Ritualo and Jojo Manalo also finished in double figures as the Paintmasters started their title campaign with a bang.

Scores:

WELCOAT 95—Ritualo 16, Manalo 13, Mamaclay 11, Cruz 9, Encarnacion 8, Tan 8, De Ocampo 7, Tuble 6, Suba 5, Canlas 5, Orfrecio 2, Tolentino 0, Go 0.

ANA 60—Capus 16, Pascual 12, Mendoza R 8, De Castro 8, Tubid 6, Torres 5, Mendoza 2, Vilar 2, Artadi 1, Flores 0.

BLU 72—Bacani 15, Billones 14, Codamon 13, Sanz 10, Legaspi 9, Gumatay 4, Roldan 4, Epondulan 2, Kalaw 1, Santos 0, Quiambao 0.

KUTITAP 62—Saquilayan 17, Salangsang 9, Gelig 8, Baguio 7, Natividad 5, Mercado 4, Lopez 4, Rivera 3, Bajar 3, Sison 2, Binuya 0, Mallari 0, Dy 0.

Carter, Peterson key Raptors win vs Mavs

TORONTO—Vince Carter scored 25 points and Morris Peterson added 23 as the Toronto Raptors beat Dallas, 109-92, in the Raptors' home opener.

Peterson also had eight assists and seven rebounds Friday for the Raptors, who lost their first two games of the season against Orlando and Miami.

Carter, who went 8-for-32 in his first two games, finished 11-for-23 with seven assists and five rebounds after receiving loud cheers during pre-game introductions.

Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki was forced to leave the game seven minutes into the first quarter with a sprained left ankle he received in a collision with Antonio Davis.

Nowitzki, the Mavericks leading scorer last season, had 30 points and 13 rebounds in a victory over Philadelphia on Thursday night. He went 0-for-2 in seven minutes against the Raptors.

Tim Hardaway and Michael Finley each had 17 points for the Mavericks, who trailed by as many as 25 points in the first half.

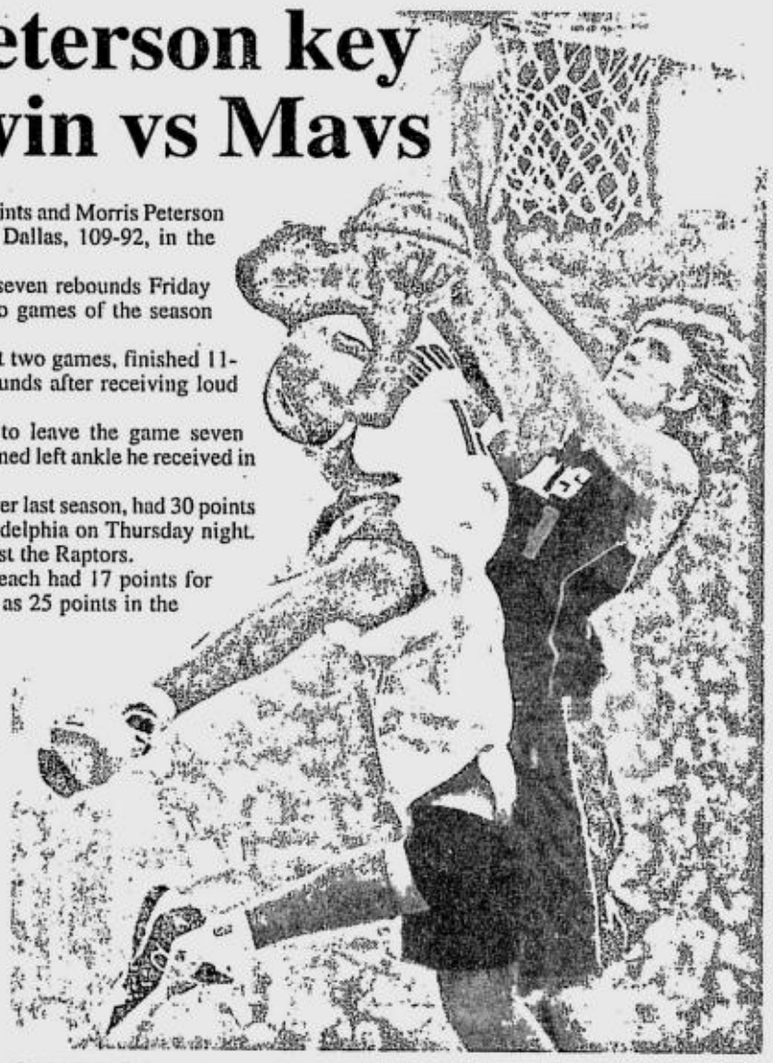
Celtics 96, Bulls 82

In Boston, Antoine Walker scored 22 points and added 10 rebounds and eight assists to lead the Boston Celtics over the Chicago Bulls.

Ron Mercer scored 22 points for Chicago, which dropped to 0-2.

Paul Pierce scored 16 points, Tony Battie chipped in with 11 and Milt Palacio had 10 as the Celtics had their most balanced scoring of the season.

Complete results: Indiana 117, Orlando 107; Toronto 109, Dallas 92; Boston 96, Chicago 82; Cleveland 90, Miami 83; Charlotte 97, New York 93; Minnesota 111, Memphis 102; Detroit 102, New Jersey 88; LA Lakers 117, Phoenix 94. *AP*


CARTER (left) is fouled by Dallas forward Dirk Nowitzki on his way up for a reverse dunk. AP

Allen unsure to play vs MJ

PHILADELPHIA—Allen Iverson isn't planning to play against Michael Jordan on Saturday night. But his uniform will be in Washington just in case his injured elbow is better.

The Philadelphia 76ers, off to a 0-2 start, get their first look at Jordan in a Wizards uniform when they play at Washington on Saturday. It'll be the first game at home for Jordan in his latest comeback. *AP*

Jordan countdown

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

AMERICAN sportswriters have started saying Michael Jordan is back to his deadly form. In the beginning, they sounded as if Jordan wasn't fit for a comeback.

As I keep telling friends and strangers alike, Jordan decided to come back because he knew he could come back. He would never have thought about it if he knew there was nothing left in his 38-year-old legs.

They say that the knees go first. The mind next.

I believe that.

The mind can dictate but not all of the time.

Even in golf, the mind cannot impose its power on the golf muscles. A three-footer for par could wobble the knees. Destroy one's concentration. The mind cannot always make things happen. A freethrow, like a three-footer in golf, isn't chicken feed at all times.

Jordan scored 19 points in his debut as a third-termer NBA cager. His team, the Washington Wizards, lost to the New York Knicks, 93-91.

It was not a bad start. It is not always easy to play well, especially if you are coming back from a layoff of 3-1/2 years. The other day, he looked very Jordan-like; he fired 31 points as the Wizards beat the Hawks, 98-88. That's when they started saying Jordan still has what it takes to play the game.

How many times has it been said that Jordan's a different animal, so different that Steven Spielberg might make an E.T. film in the new millennium and have Jordan in the starring role?

Jordan came back because he is an intelligent person. Only an intelligent person is capable of doing what Jordan has done. Only an intelligent person can become a great athlete. There are many good athletes, but great athletes can be counted with your fingers. Norton, Frazier, Holmes, Lewis, Holyfield, Liston, Patterson, Foreman and even Tyson are good athletes. But Marciano and Ali are great athletes.

Jordan returned because he wanted to prove something. Not just prove that he can still play. He came back to tell the world 38 isn't old for basketball. He came back to tell us age cannot easily overrun talent.

It's not how far the Wizards can go with Jordan around. It's how far Jordan can go. It's an entirely different ballgame for Jordan.. Whereas before, fans gave emphasis in his ability to give his team an NBA title, this time, it's his ability to survive the rigors of the game that preoccupies the mind of the basketball buff. Sort of a countdown for the game's greatest practitioner.

That should do it for me. I've seen enough of the guy, anyway.

Senior Care Classic gets going tomorrow

A FIELD of no less than 120 players is taking a crack at the five division titles and the numerous tournament and raffle prizes up for grabs when the Federation of Golf Clubs Philippines Inc. holds the inaugural Senior Care Fellowship Golf Classic tomorrow, Nov. 5 at the Sta. Elena Golf Club course. Tee-off is shotgun style at 8 a.m.

Lawyer Joe B. Abejo, chair of the FGCPI Senior Care program, gladly announced that cardholders have given their all-out support for the launching edition of what is touted to become the biggest event in their calendar.

Topping the list of prizes are a Northwest Airlines business class ticket to any city in the United States, P100,000 worth of local travel packages and a Weinstein Piano which will be up for grabs as hole-in-one prizes.

Former Rep. Gilberto Duavit as major backer, Philippine Airlines which is giving away two business class tickets to Hong Kong, Ford Phils., the Philippine Sports Commission, San Miguel Corp. and Custom Clubmakers, Citra Tollways, PX Wines and Golf and Nivea are coming in as donors.

Red Adriano, president of the Puerto Azul Golf and Country club and chair of the tournament committee, said that most of the Federation of Golf Clubs Philippines' Inc. members are represented.

RP-CHINA SPORTS PACT
President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo shows her deep concern for sports by witnessing the historic signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Philippine Sports Commission and the State Sports General Administration of China together with China President Jiang Zemin and other government dignitaries. Signing for the Philippines is PSC chair Butch Tuason (seated at left) while Minister Yuan Weimin represented China. Looking on (from left) are Justice Secretary Hernani Perez, Sen. Kiko Pangilinan, Trade Secretary Mar Roxas, Malabon-Navotas Rep. Ricky Sandoval and National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, among others.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASEBALL: MLB World Series, Game 6, at 8:30 a.m. (r – 8:30 p.m.) on ESPN and Studio 23

BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 7:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

NBA at 9:10 p.m. on NBN 4

BILLIARDS: 2001 International Challenge of Champions, Finals at 7:30 a.m. (r) on ESPN

Verplank up; Woods 5 strokes behind

HOUSTON—Tiger Woods' three-putt bogey on the final hole spoiled an otherwise solid round in the Tour Championship and left Woods five strokes behind the 36-hole leader, Scott Verplank, who knows something about injuries himself.

Verplank, who went through three elbow injuries that nearly ended his career, had six birdies and a momentum-saving par save from the bunker on No. 16 Friday to complete a 6-under 65 in calm, sticky conditions at Champions Golf Club.

Verplank was at 132 and had a one-stroke lead over Bernhard Langer. Mike Weir of Canada, one of eight players in the elite field who hasn't won this year, had a 66 and was another stroke back. *AP*

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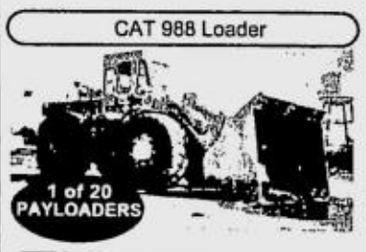
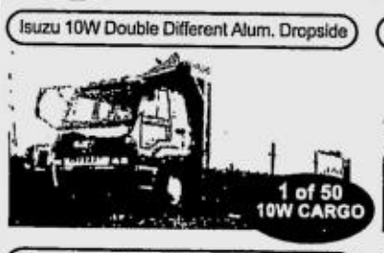
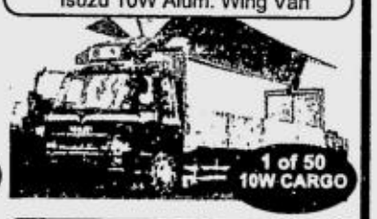
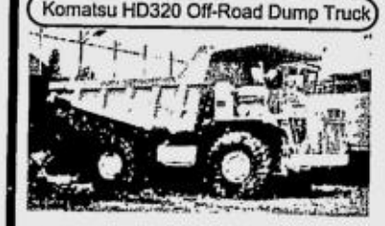
Late Model Komatsu D85A Dozer

CAT 988 Loader


Late Model Komatsu GD 305A Grader

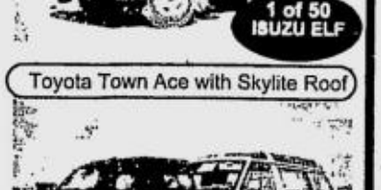
Isuzu 10W Double Different Alum. Dropside


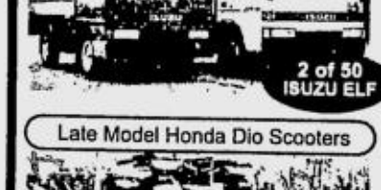
Isuzu 10W Alum. Wing Van


Komatsu HD320 Off-Road Dump Truck


Late Model Isuzu Elf Dump Truck

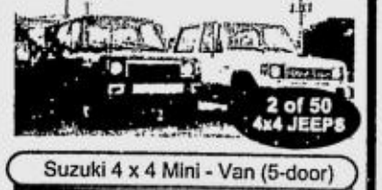
Late Model Isuzu Elf Dropsides (Single Tire)

Toyota Town Ace with Skylite Roof


Late Model Honda Dio Scooters


Mitsubishi 4 x 4

Isuzu 10W Transit Mixer

Suzuki 4 x 4 Mini - Van (5-door)


NOV. 9, 10 & 11, 2001

INSPECTION DATES:
Nov. 5, 6, 7 & 8, 2001

AUCTION SITE:
(Former Tateh Compound)
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SundaySPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▩ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2001 A 17

Serena overcomes Justine

MUNICH, Germany—A broken string did not stop Serena Williams from hitting a spectacular volley to overcome Justine Henin 6-3 7-6 on Friday for a place in the semifinals of the WTA Championships. *Reuters*

MATIAS: "I played badly." ERNIE SARMIENTO

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Taiwanese frustrates Matias

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

CHINESE-TAIPEI'S Chuang Chia-Jung unleashed her own brand of power tennis to overwhelm Fil-American Diane Matias, 6-2, 6-1, yesterday and capture the Union Cement-ITF women's circuit at the Rizal Memorial tennis center.

What was expected to be a tough match between the two promising 16-year-old protagonists turned out to be a lopsided one as Chuang dominated Matias with her strong serves and equally potent returns which the Fil-Am found too much to handle.

The Kaoshiung native thus went home with the $1,600 champions' purse in addition to five points in her Women's Tennis Association tally. Her world ranking of 953 is also expected to improve.

"The key is that I prepared so well for her (Matias)," said Chuang, who is the No. 5 player in her country and is being considered to play in the Asian Games next year. "I watched her play against Weng Tzu-Ting and learned enough about how she plays."

Indeed, Chuang used power to neutralized Matias's edge in speed, a ploy that troubled the California-based Fil-Am no end eventually wrapped up the match after only an hour and five minutes.

"I played badly, there's no excuse for it," said Matias, who left the country in 1991 and is now being wooed to be part of the national team. "I was slow in returning her ball and was so impatient trying to fight back."

In the process, Matias committed strings of unforced errors which Chuang wisely used to put her at bay and take the first leg of the 10-nation competition. The second leg of the Philippine circuit starts Wednesday.

Matias went up to the finals beating favored rivals, including Malaysia's Khoo Chin Bee, who beat Malaysian Khoo Chin Bee, who booted out the Philippines' No. 1 Czarina Mae Arevalo and top-seeded Korean Kim Jin Hee.

It was twin celebration for Chuang, who also bagged the doubles trophy in tandem with Weng after besting Chao Hsiao-Han of Chinese Taipei and Khoo. They won $650.

Siodina nears Sr Tour slot

FORMER World Cupper Mario Siodina survived a final round collapse to clinch one of the 12 slots disputed in his sectional group for the final stage of the Senior PGA Tour Qualifying Tournament at the par-72 Tournament Players Club of Tampa Bay in Lutz, Florida.

Siodina, a member of the Callaway teaching staff finally making his first crack at the senior ranks after a visa snafu last year put to waste his long preparations, tied for the lead with a 69 in the first round on Tuesday but still almost failed to make it when he shot a disastrous 78 on Friday.

Siodina's 294 total that also included a 75 in the second round and an even par 72 in the second round left him tied for the 9th to 15th spots in his division topped by American Doug LaCrosse in runaway fashion with a seven-under 281.

Siodina, who is also supported by DHL bossman Rod Feliciano, will join the other qualifiers from five other sites in the final stage on Nov. 13-16. He will have enough time to acclimatize with the California weather and familiarize himself with the course conditions.

The top eight finishers at the Senior PGA Tour Qualifying School Tournament finals to be played at PGA Southern California Golf Club at Oak Valley will earn full tour 2002 cards while the next eight will earn limited privileges.

There were 55 pros who joined the qualifying in Tampa Bay. The other qualifying sites were at the Metro West Country Club in Orlando, Florida, Marsh Creek Country Club in St. Augustine, Fla., Golf Club of Texas, La Purisima course in Lompoc, California and PGA Southern California Club also in California.

Jong Arcano

Jobe co-leader

MADISON, Mississippi—Brandt Jobe shot a 66 Friday to share the lead with Carl Paulson after two rounds of the Southern Farm Bureau Classic. Paulson also shot a 66 and is at 11-under 133.

At No. 126 on the money list, Brandt Jobe needs to move up one spot this weekend to earn full playing status on tour next season.

"There's not much time," Jobe said.

The 36-year-old Jobe made six birdies, including 4.5-meter (15-foot) putts on Nos. 2 and 10, and an eagle on 5, putting himself in position to secure his card for another year with No. 124 Spike McRoy missing the cut at 6 over. *AP*

'Bata' triumphs

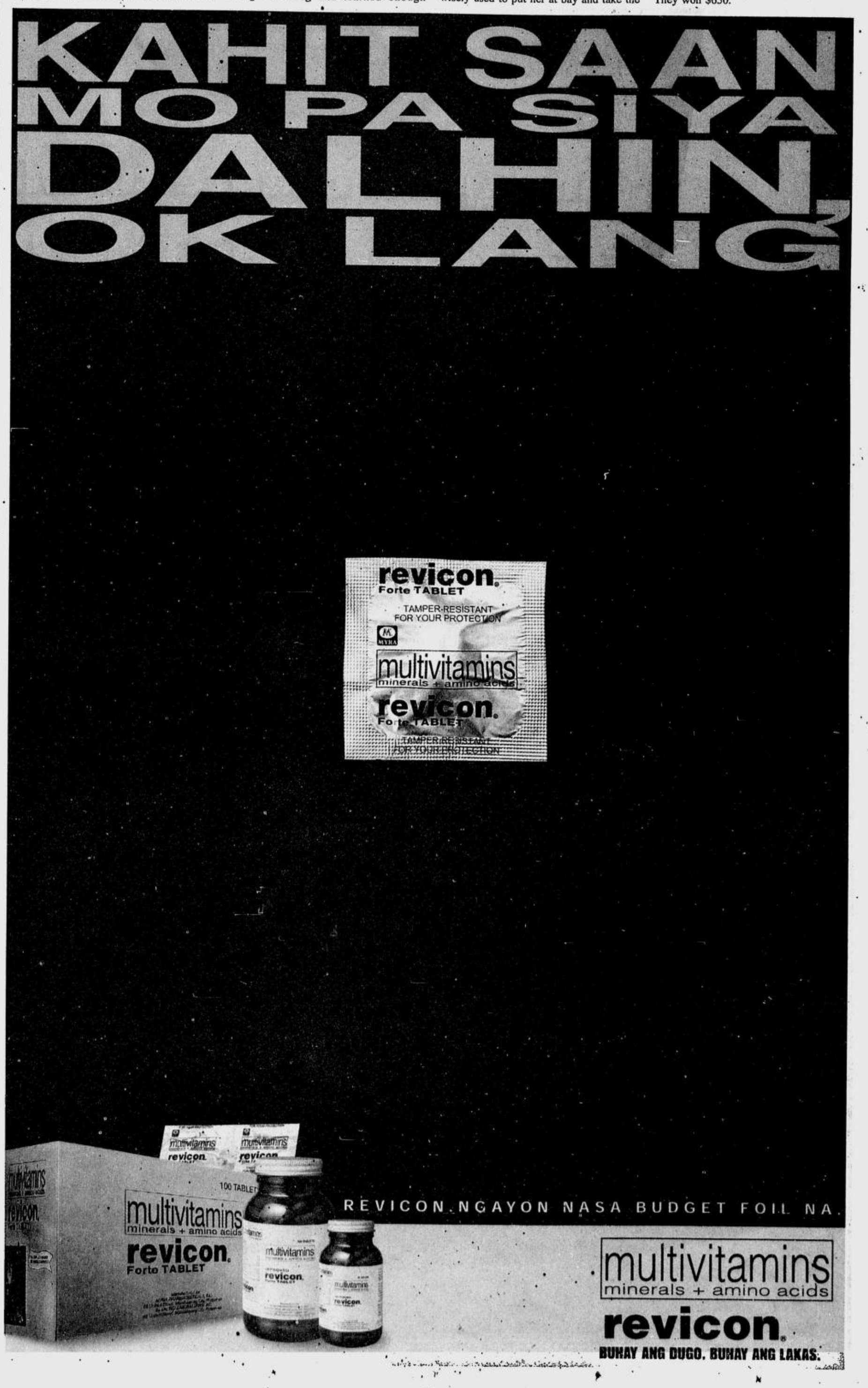
Efren 'Bata' Reyes routed world female champion Jeanette "Black Widow" Lee, 13-5 last night in the LG Flatron Billiard Challenge at the Casino Filipino in Paranaque City.

Dubbed as the Magician, Reyes did not disappoint the jam-packed crowd, dominating Lee with his flawless shot making en route to the masterful win.

Reyes won $10,000, while Lee, who wore an all-black outfit, settled for $5,000.

Caoili shares 5th

WOMAN International Master Arianne Caoili, playing in the Girls 18-under category, gained a share of fifth place in the conclusion of the 2001 World Youth Chess Championship in Oropesa del Mar, Spain on Friday. Caoili drew with top seed Inga Charkhalain (2319) of Georghia in 28 moves of Slav Defense to banner the campaign of the 10-man Youth Team Philippines in this annual event.



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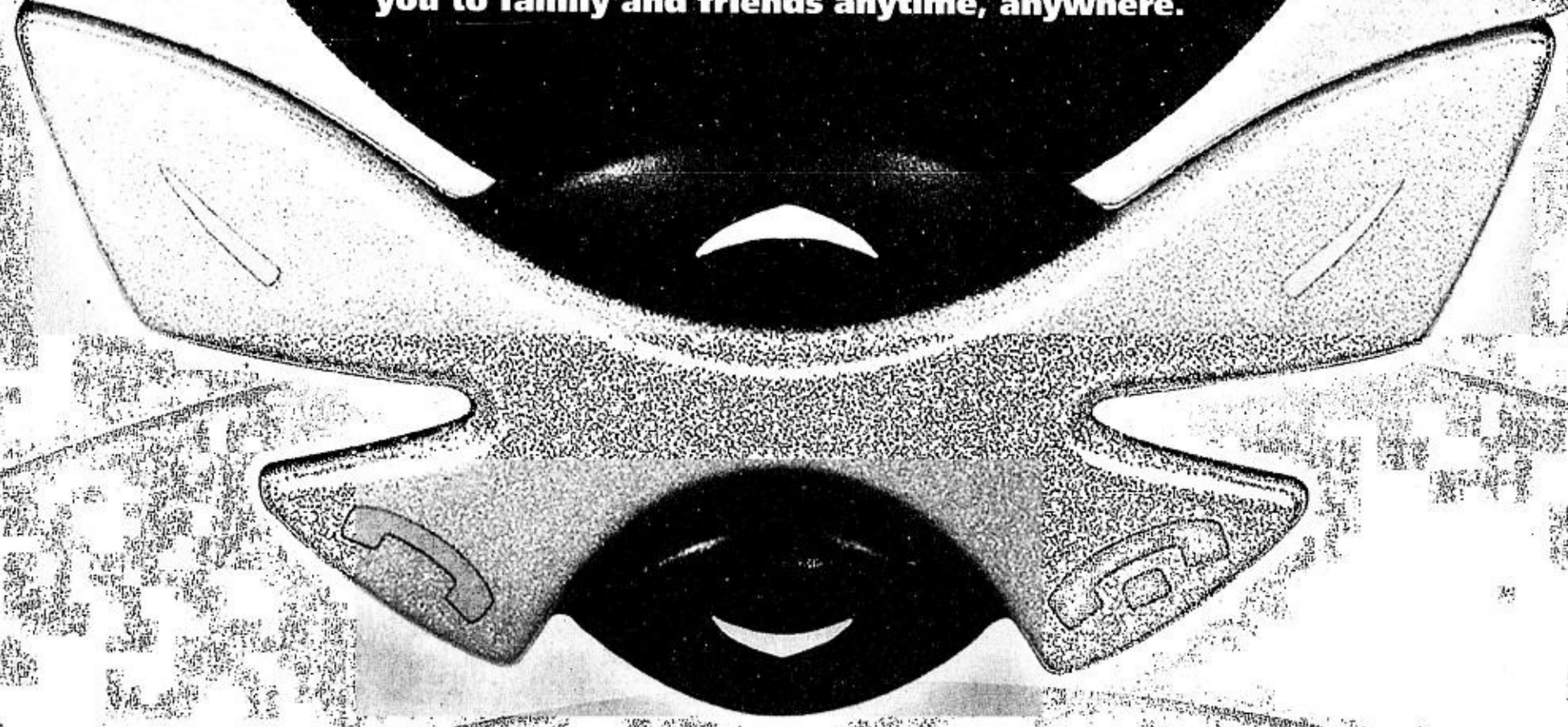

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1. Key in **ICHAT** and send to **277**.
2. You'll receive a menu of options.
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1625, Series of 2001.

- Keep kidnap-murder suspects out of PMA A20
- Makati women's-children's desk revamped A20

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

- 'Emergency powers not necessary' A20
- Maynilad collector robbed A20

Parañaque screens casino players

The President's man

BY MARLET D. SALAZAR

TALES OF THE CITY

LONG after the Nov. 1-2 crowds have left the cemeteries and memorial parks, Roque Rapon remains at the North Cemetery, looking after tombs. And they're not ordinary tombs but the tombs of a former Philippine president and a former senator.

In fact, Rapon, 57, lives right inside the North Cemetery in La Loma, Quezon City.

Mang Roque is the tomb caretaker of the Roxas family. A familiar figure in the cemetery, he spends almost half the day cleaning the tombs of three Roxas generations: former President Manuel Roxas, his son Sen. Gerry Roxas and Gerry's

THE PRESIDENT'S/ A20

GEORGINA C. ORTIZ

GRAVE MAN Rapon at the tomb of one of his presidents.

BY ALCUIN PAPA

THE PARAÑAQUE government, bowing to pressure from the Church and non-government organizations, has created a task force to ensure that only qualified players are allowed inside the city's Casino Filipino.

Mayor Joey Marquez put together a nine-man task force he called "Task Force Bantay Casino" and sent it to work starting at 5 p.m. Friday after a coordination meeting with officials of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., which runs the Casino Filipino.

According to the mayor's order, the task force, headed by city administrator Lito Abad, will screen guests and allow into the casino only those who are qualified to play.

Marquez cited Presidential Decree No. 1869, which defines who can be allowed to play in casinos.

Sec. 14 of PD 1869 says these are local residents who are at least 21 years old and have proof that their gross income for the previous year

PARAÑAQUE/ A20

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Picture Messages*	PIC <keyword> and send to 239
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Screen Saver	SAVER TRIP and send to 239

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To receive more information on the commands, key in HELP <COMMANDS> and send to 239

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Dine out with the cast!
Ang top 20 winners na may pinakamaraming correct answers will dine with the cast after the premiere.

1. All Talk 'N Text, SMART Gold and SMART Buddy GSM subscribers are eligible to participate in the promo.
2. The subscriber should register in the Movie Club to join the promo. A participant may register only once. For first-time registrants, Talk 'N Text subscribers should do the ff. steps:
   1. Send a text message to the number 239 stating "JOIN MOVIE."
   2. Key in "NAME <full name>" and send to 239
   3. Key in "BIRTH <mmddyy>" and send to 239
   4. Key in "ADD <address>" and send to 239

   Subscribers will be charged P2.50 per message sent.
3. The Movie Club members can win free tickets to the advance screening of Trip by joining the Trip Trivia Quiz He/she can join by typing "PLAY TRIP" and sending it to 239. The Movie Club will text back with trivia questions which the member should answer by texting his/her choice of answers <1,2,3,4>.
4. The top 100 members with the most number of correct answers will win two free movie tickets each for the premiere showing of Trip on November 6, 2001 at SM Megamall Cinema 10, at 7 PM.
5. The top 20 members with the most number of correct answers win the privilege of having free dinner with the Trip cast at Mario's Restaurant at St. Francis Square in Ortigas Center right after the premiere night.
6. The cellphone number of each registered subscriber will automatically be the official entry.
7. Deadline for sending of entries will be on 12 midnight of November 4, 2001.
8. Winners will be determined at 11 AM of Nov. 5, 2001 at the 27/F, Smart Tower Building, 6799 Ayala Avenue, Makati City using a computer-generated system checked by and operated under the supervision of a DTI representative.
9. Prizes are not convertible to cash.
10. Winners will be notified via text message and a voice call to their registered mobile number.
11. Winners may claim their tickets on November 5 from 1 PM to 7PM at the Smart Wireless Center at SM Megamall or at the Talk 'N Text Movie Club booth at the SM Megamall on the date of the premiere night. Winners must present their active Talk 'N Text/Smart cellphone with the winning SIM numbers and valid IDs with photo.
12. All employees of Smart Communications, Inc., Pilipino Telephone Corporation, Information Gateway Inc., and their advertising agencies and their relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are automatically disqualified from the promo.
13. Promo period is from October 27 to November 4, 2001.
14. Promo is for GMA only.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1685, Series of 2001

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'Keep kidnap-murder suspects out of PMA'

BY VINCENT CABREZA
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

THE FATHER of slain ROTC whistleblower Mark Welson Chua yesterday asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to bar six University of Sto. Tomas students from entering the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio City.

Four of the six students were charged with Chua's murder in March.

Welson Chua, the victim's father, was the President's guest in the Baguio telecast of her weekly program "May Gloria ang Bukas Mo."

Chua asked Ms Macapagal "to direct (PMA officials) to expel cadet officers Eduardo Tabrilla, Franco Salvador Suelto and Arnulfo Aparri," whom he tagged as members of a kidnap-for-ransom group that abducted his son Mark.

He also asked the PMA to bar the entry of three other UST students who have been charged with Mark's murder: Paul Joseph Tan, Michael Von Rainard Manangbao, and Patrick Christopher Cruz.

Mark, a UST engineering student, was found dead on March 15 in the Pasig River, days after he implicated in corruption cases the officials of the university's ROTC program.

"They will only become scalawags (who will) plague the institutions that serve and protect us," the elder Chua said in a three-page letter he submitted to Ms Macapagal in Baguio City.

Tabrilla reportedly is the only PMA cadet to be charged with murder, according to Director General Leandro Mendoza, Philippine National Police chief. Tabrilla was charged along with Tan, Manangbao and Cruz. But the elder Chua claimed there was new evidence that would tie all six students to a kidnap-for-ransom group, which operated two years ago.

Chua told the INQUIRER yesterday that the government would need to consolidate the criminal cases against his son's suspected killers, "to make the charges stick."

"You don't want to ask me what I would tell my son if he was alive," Chua said. "All I am doing now is pursuing his case.... I spent time over my son's grave on Thursday, and I discovered that the grave next to his was also that of a UST kidnap victim who was murdered. It was a 1992 case. It was tragic."

Mendoza said he was taking Chua's claims seriously and announced the progress of the investigation during the President's weekly program.

But PMA officials in Baguio City want more time to conduct their own investigation.

Army Capt. Edgard Arevalo, PMA spokesman, said it would take a military tribunal to expel the cadets if an investigation proved that Tabrilla, Suelto and Aparri were the same suspects in Chua's murder.

"As commander-in-chief, the President will endorse the recommendation to the military bureaucracy, and we will need to make an assessment before we offer our own recommendations to her," Arevalo explained. "That is the procedure."

He said PMA also needs to understand how those conducting the mandatory PMA background check could miss the ongoing criminal investigation supposedly involving the three cadets.

"But if these are our cadets, they would only be fourth-class cadets who entered the academy in April," he said.

Suelto and Aparri passed the recent PMA examinations and are not yet confirmed cadets, he said. Tabrilla's name does not appear on the list of successful PMA examinees, he said.

Mendoza told the President during the telecast that the police were still waiting for the court to issue arrest warrants for Manangbao, Tabrilla, Tan and Cruz.

Chua also asked the President to issue hold-departure orders against the six suspects and to provide protection for three of the witnesses. He said one of the witnesses had been reported missing. ***With reports from Jovelyn Reyes and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

BACK TO WORK ERIK ARAZAS

The dead are left in peace again as the living go back to work after the long weekend that included All Saints' Day. Work for this group of men means collecting the wilted flowers and food and drink containers that accumulated at the North Cemetery.

Makati women's-children's desk revamped

THE NATIONAL Police Commission (Napolcom) has ordered a revamp of the Makati City Police Women's and Children's Desk following reports of anomalies allegedly committed by its personnel.

In a recent memorandum to the Makati police chief, Supt. Jovito Gutierrez, Napolcom vice chair and executive officer Rogelio Pureza said his office received numerous complaints about the Makati unit.

Among the complaints against the unit's personnel were discourtesy, inefficiency, lack of transparency, and suppression of police records resulting in news blackout.

The Napolcom also received complaints about the alleged settling of a case involving foreigners and other persons of authority for a fee. ***Alcuin Papa***

Bulacan bus blast plain accident, investigators say

BY CARMELA REYES,
PDI Central Luzon Desk

POLICE yesterday said the New People's Army breakaway group Hukbong Mapagpalayang Bayan had no part in the grenade explosion in a bus where two men were killed in San Miguel, Bulacan on Friday.

Renato Gabriel, 30 and Rodel Rodriguez, 37, were killed when Gabriel accidentally dropped a grenade he was carrying in the Cabanatuan City-bound Baliwag Transit bus, police said.

"It was plain accident," said Senior Supt. Edgardo Acuña, Bulacan police director.

Acuña said five other passengers, including a 10-year-old boy, were seriously wounded and were brought to the San Miguel District Hospital in Bulacan and another hospital in Cabanatuan City.

The injured were Willard Pelayo, 22, Jose Pelayo, 36, Jose Estrella, 64, Geramy Dizon and Patrick Dizon, 10.

Investigators learned that Gabriel, who they said appeared to be mentally deranged, had a grenade hooked onto his belt when he boarded the bus in Balintawak, Quezon City.

When the bus reached Barangay Sta. Rita Matanda, Bulacan, Gabriel tried to get his luggage but the grenade accidentally fell. When he tried to step on it, the grenade exploded.

Acuña said the explosion could not be linked with the HMB group that engaged the police in a gunfight on Oct. 31 where two rebels were killed.

METROBRIEFS

Hitler's peddler

BARANGAY officials rescued suspected drug peddler Franco Merillo from certain death in the hands of a notorious drug lord known as "Hitler" in Quiapo, Manila yesterday morning. Merillo, 27, also of Quiapo, was reportedly abducted and beaten black and blue by Hitler's henchmen before lawmen rescued him and brought him to the Western Police District Station 8 in Sta. Mesa. SPO3 Cecilio Sacorum of the WPD general assignments section said Merillo's mother Juanita Caceres, 43, sought the help of police after armed men barged into their house about 6:30 a.m. and dragged her sleeping son to a waiting car. Neighbor Orlando Laya, 31, said he overheard the suspects threatening to kill Merillo if he didn't cough up the P20,500 in drug money he owed Hitler. Police sources said a "Colonel Lucman" helped barangay authorities in tracking down the house in the Quiapo Islamic Center where Merillo was reportedly held. ***Jerome Aning***

Pandacan ambush

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agent Timoteo Rejano was shot and injured when he and his physician wife were reportedly ambushed by a suspected drug pusher and his henchmen in Pandacan, Manila before dawn Friday. Rejano, of the NBI's dangerous drugs division and resident of Pandacan, is confined at the Manila Doctors Hospital in Ermita. He said he got down from his white Nissan LEC (WPD-399) to open the gate of his house about 1 a.m. when the suspects began firing at him. He said he fired back and forced them to retreat. His wife Dr. Gloria Rivera-Rejano, who was with him in the car, was not hurt. He identified the leader of the gunmen as Bong Richard Son, 40. He said he arrested Son a few months ago for drug pushing. ***Jerome Aning***

Pasay bust

PASAY policemen arrested medical school graduate Enrico de la Cruz about 11:30 p.m. Friday night for allegedly taking shabu along with two other people. Pasay police chief Supt. Eduardo de la Cerna said his men arrested De la Cruz, of Sun Valley, Parañaque City, at the residence of Ma. Teresa Barcenas and Abner Garcia in Barrio Balabag, Pasay City. Barcenas, 35, and Garcia, 28, were also hauled to jail and charged after police received a complaint from Pasay residents that shabu was being used and sold in Barcenas' house, De la Cerna said. Insp. Reynaldo Paculan said bail for the suspects was set at P60,000 each. ***Alcuin Papa***

Death by electricity

TRUCK driver Ramon Yuson, 37, allegedly tried to steal a telephone cable but was electrocuted and killed when he touched a high-tension wire inside a Manila golf course yesterday. Yuson, a resident of Bagong Silang, Caloocan City, fell lifeless from an electric post after electricity coursed through his body. SPO1 Raul Olavario said the body was found by security guard Ricardo Oliban near the western edge of the Intramuros golf course on Bonifacio Drive about 4 a.m. Oliban told police he saw sparks and heard a small explosion from the electric post. When he reached the scene, he saw the victim lying motionless on the grassy ground, still holding a severed telephone line. Olavario said Yuson used a metal saw to cut the cable. ***Jerome Aning***

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, November 4, 2001
31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Wis 11:22—12:2

For the entire world lies before you, just enough to tip the scales, a drop of morning dew falling on the ground.

But because you are almighty, you are merciful to all; you overlook sins and give your children time to repent. You love everything that exists and hate nothing that you have made; had you hated anything, you would not have formed it.

How could anything endure if you did not will it? And how could anything last that you had not willed? You have compassion on all because all is yours, O Lord, lover of life.

In fact your immortal spirit is in all.

And so by degrees you correct those who sin, you admonish them, reminding them how they have strayed so that turning away from evil they may trust in you, Lord.

2nd Reading: 2 Thes 1:11—2:2

We constantly pray for you; may our God make you worthy of his calling. May he, by his power, fulfill your good purposes and your work prompted by faith. In that way, the name of Jesus our Lord will be glorified through you, and you through him, according to the loving plan of God and of Christ Jesus the Lord.

Do not be easily unsettled. Do not be alarmed by what a prophet says or by any report, or by some letter said to be ours, saying the day of the Lord is at hand.

Gospel: Lk 19:1-10

When Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the city, a man named Zaccheus was there. He was a tax collector and a wealthy man. He wanted to see what Jesus was like, but he was a short man and could not see because of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed up a sycamore tree. From there he would be able to see Jesus who had to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zaccheus, come down quickly for I must stay at your house today." So Zaccheus hurried down and received him joyfully.

All the people who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to the house of a sinner as a guest." But Zaccheus spoke to Jesus, "The half of my goods, Lord, I give to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone, I will pay him back four times as much." Looking at him Jesus said, "Salvation has come to this house today, for he is also a true son of Abraham. The Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost."

Commentary

Where Jesus is, there is salvation. Jesus comes to be the guest of a man named Zacchaeus, a chief tax collector and very rich. Zacchaeus is considered a sinner because of his occupation. Yet unexpectedly, Jesus chooses to stay at his house rather than at the homes of the religious leaders. Perhaps the storyteller would want Zacchaeus rewarded for his eagerness to see Jesus. Whatever his motive is, the critical reader will not fail to note the unique response from Zacchaeus—haste and joy in welcoming Jesus as his guest. This is a world of difference from the cold reception of the judging crowds. In this, Zacchaeus proves to be a son of Abraham. He believes and accepts the word of Jesus.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites:http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Incomplete self-defense—In complete self-defense is not considered as a justifying act, but merely a mitigating circumstance; hence, the burden of proving the crime charged in the information is not shifted to the accused. In order that it may be successfully appreciated, however, it is necessary that a majority of the requirements of self-defense be present, particularly the requisite of unlawful aggression on the part of the victim. Unlawful aggression by itself or in combination with either of the other two requisites suffices to establish incomplete self-defense. Absent the unlawful aggression, there can never be self-defense, complete or incomplete, because if there is nothing to prevent or repel, the other two requisites of defense will have no basis. [Citations omitted.][Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division, People v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 103613, February 23, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Munti launches 'KILLDroga'

THE MUNTINLUPA City government, led by Mayor Jaime Fresnedi, last week launched the national government's "KillDroga" to eliminate the abuse of prohibited drugs and to enlist community participation in the campaign.

KillDroga stands for Kilos Laya Laban sa Droga.

Vice Mayor Jo Jason Alcaraz, chair of the Muntinlupa Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Council (MDAPACC), said KILLDroga replaced the Mamamayang Ayaw sa Droga (MAD) of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

It was earlier launched at the Manila Hotel together with another program, "Private Eye," which would involve civilians serving as informants on illegal drug activities in their communities.

The members of the MDAPACC council automatically become members of KillDroga, together with all drug enforcement units and community leaders.

The vice mayor said that next school year, the MDAPACC would hold lectures and film showings on how to say no to drugs for all Grade 5 pupils in public and private schools in Muntinlupa. The forums are in support of the Philippine Drug Abuse Resistance Education for Muntinlupa's high school students.

The vice mayor said the city would also put up a wellness center to help cure drug dependents with the participation of their parents.

Funding for the wellness center will come from the income of the city's drug testing laboratory which is now servicing private companies, according to Alcaraz.

The Muntinlupa lab offers drug tests at prices lower than those charged by private labs, he said.

Alcaraz said the launch was attended by the MDAPACC's Rolando Espina; Police Supt. Johnny Salvania, deputy director for operations, National Drug Law Enforcement Program; Leo Betonia, chief, technical division of the Department of Interior and Local Government; and former congressman Ignacio Bunye.

The President's man (From page A19)

son Gerry "Dinggoy" Jr.

The pint-sized Mang Roque also used to look after the tombs of Jose Rizal's parents until their remains were transferred to Calamba, Laguna. He also took care of the grave of former President Manuel Luis Quezon until it was relocated to Quezon City. The grave of Quezon's wife, Doña Aurora, remains at the North Cemetery.

Aside from taking care of the Roxas and Quezon tombs, he also works for middle-class families who have buried their dead in the North Cemetery.

When Rapon's wife died last January, Judy Araneta-Roxas, the widow of Sen. Gerry Roxas, helped him shoulder the funeral expenses. "They are very good to me," he said of the Roxas family.

Born to a family of farmers, Rapon recalled how his father and brothers used to till the land for some well-off families in their town, Bugallon, Pangasinan.

"Living in the province was very hard," he said. "Even if we didn't run out of rice, money was very scarce."

The Pangasinan native who went only up to Grade 3 said farming was not really his strong suit.

During a trip to the farm, he had an accident that left a permanent mark on him. "When I was about 7 years old, I fell from a carabao. That's why I look like this," he said, looking at his protruding chest. Because of the deformity, people would call him a hunchback.

In 1961, he decided to try his luck in Manila. He found his way to a slum near the North Cemetery. When he married his girlfriend, they agreed to live inside the cemetery.

What he earns from this uncommon job is "just enough for my daily needs," says Rapon who is now a widower. He helps the relatives of his late wife by referring to them the jobs he cannot handle.

He considers the children loitering inside the graveyard as his grandchildren. He buys them candy when he has loose change to spare.

No fear

He usually starts his day by cleaning up the surroundings of the Roxas circle, after which he attends to other tombs.

He is familiar with the dates of birth and death of his "wards," and he makes sure that the tombs are particularly spruced up when the family visits them on those dates.

Asked if he does not get a creepy feeling at nights, being surrounded by hundreds of graves, he laughed.

"I don't know why others think that ghosts are lurking around here," he said. "They do not bother us. We always have a good night's sleep."

They, meaning the living residents of the cemetery, are more afraid of thieves and other intruders who come into the graveyard in the dead of the night.

He apparently prefers to stay in the crowded but peaceful village of the dead instead of mixing it up with the living outside the cemetery walls.

"I think I'll die here," he said. "I do not aspire to do anything else. Besides, I'm already old and there's no other work that would fit me and my health."

Parañaque screens casino . . . (From page A19)

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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Parañaque screens casino . . . (From page A19)

was at least P50,000 as certified by the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Guests of qualified patrons may also enter the casino if they can show proof that they are at least 21 years old. Foreigners with authentic passports and other supporting documents are also allowed to play.

Banned from the casino are "government officers directly connected with the operation of the government or any of its agencies" as well as members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and students, according to PD 1869.

In the coordination meeting where the implementation of the mayor's directive was discussed, the parties decided that those who look younger than 21 would be asked to produce proof of their age. Patrons will also have to sign an information sheet for Pagcor records.

Marquez said he made the move after members of the local clergy and NGOs complained about unqualified individuals being able to enter and play in the casino.

Marquez said he wrote Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino last Oct. 31 saying the mayor's office had received complaints about alleged violations of and laxity in the implementation of PD 1869 in the casino.

Abad said the task force would strictly implement the provisions of PD 1869. "That (strict implementation of the law) is our instruction from our mayor," he said.

Part of the mayor's directive was for the task force to coordinate with Pagcor officials "to ensure that the provisions are strictly complied with for the purpose of promoting the development of good public morals and maintaining peace and order."

Pagcor officials pledged their full cooperation, according to the task force.

The other members of the task force are Parañaque City chief of police Supt. Ruben Catabona, Mar Jimenez, lawyer Boy Asoy, Danny Rodriguez, Boyet Dionisio, Jerry Lopez, Joven Joya and Elias Alano who represents the NGOs.

Pagcor officials who joined the coordination meeting with the task force included senior branch manager Dario Cordero, branch administrative officer Cesar Pascual, and senior chief security officer Ernesto Mallari.

Academy Awards get a glitzy new home in Hollywood

LOS ANGELES — Right now, the appropriate attire is hard hat, work shirt, jeans and heavy boots. Come Nov. 9, Hollywood's glitterati will appear in tuxes and gowns for the grand opening of the new home of the Academy Awards, the Kodak Theatre.

Workmen are applying finishing touches to the $94 million palace at the traffic-clogged intersection of Hollywood Boulevard and Highland Avenue, part of an ambitious, four-year, $615 million project aimed at reviving Hollywood's decaying downtown.

The Hollywood and Highland complex, as it's being called, towers over the adjacent Grauman's Chinese Theater and includes the Renaissance Hotel (a made-over Holiday Inn).

It offers a permanent home to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' awards show after 70 years of the gypsy life. The Kodak is just a block away from the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, where the first Oscars were handed out in a 15-minute ceremony in 1929.

"It's thrilling to know that we can go back and have the Academy Awards where they started," said Academy spokesman John Pavlik.

The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce is happy too. "We're hoping that the development will jump-start tourism," says chamber President Leron Gubler.

Somewhat less enthusiastic are residents in the hills just to the north. Not only has the complex's enormity jarred some aesthetic sensibilities, there are widespread worries that the area's already horrendous traffic will become even worse.

"I'm sure for the Academy Awards they will want to shut down the side streets at least for a week before and a few days after," said Kurt Kassulke, president of the Hollywood Heights Homeowners

Association.

"We're concerned that it will take an awful long time to get into our neighborhood. And it would be unsafe if — heaven forbid — there was a fire or some emergency."

Instead of a view that stretched for miles across the Los Angeles cityscape, resident Victoria Stewart said she'll "now be looking at a big orange building and a big white hotel."

The 400-member Hollywood Heritage Association, which tries to preserve the area's traditional ambience, also has concerns.

The association was instrumental in gaining a $7 million renovation of the neighboring Chinese Theater, restoring its 1927 splendor. Association President Robert Nudleman said his group would also like to see design changes to the Hollywood and Highland complex, but doesn't see them happening.

The project is being developed by San Diego-based TrizecHahn Co., with $100 million from the Los Angeles Community Redevelopment

Administration.

The Eastman Kodak Co., which long has supplied Hollywood with film stock, kicked in an undisclosed sum for the naming rights.

While not addressing residents' complaints directly, TrizecHahn spokeswoman Beth Harris said the project "had the total support of city officials." She said the complex will create 2,500 new jobs and contribute $8 million in taxes annually to the city.

One of the two entrances to the new Kodak Theatre, nearest Highland, is a true Hollywood spectacular. It's based on D.W. Griffith's colossal set for his 1916 epic "Intolerance."

Life-size stone elephants sit high above the steps leading to the Babylonian Courtyard, full of restaurants, nightclubs, shops and Debbie Reynolds' collection of movie costumes and memorabilia. At the top of the stairs is the Grand Arch, adorned in a Babylonian bas-relief. It has been slanted so that the famous "Hollywood" sign on the hills nearby is framed through one of the portals.

Inside, the Kodak is as intimate as a theater can be. The four levels are surprisingly wide, and the balconies are as close to the 120-foot-wide (36-meter-wide) stage as they can be.

The 3,500-seat theater is crowned by a crystal and silver chandelier billed as "a tiara of light," an oval that's a cross between the floor pattern of Michelangelo's Campidoglio and a Busby Berkeley geometric dance pattern.

The exterior lacks a sense of presence, though. Great halls such as New York's Lincoln Center, Washington's Kennedy Center and Los Angeles' Music Center announce their dignity with marble columns and chandeliers behind tall windows.

Unfortunately, the grandeur of the Kodak is hidden behind walls.

The theater's debut program Nov. 9 features British tenor Russell Watson, the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra and a 60-voice chorus.

Besides the March 24 Academy Awards, the theater has booked performances by Melissa Etheridge, Barry Manilow and the American Ballet Theater, and a run of Broadway's "The Full Monty."

The Kodak's operators — Anschutz Entertainment Group, which runs the downtown Staples Center — also hope to host TV specials and other award shows. But the Oscars will be the theater's signature event.

Pavlik said there's a traffic plan in the works for the Oscar ceremony. The 3,000-car underground garage will be available for guests, and the standard flotilla of limos will park a few blocks away at the Hollywood Bowl. *AP*

Something quite new and unexpected

(From page A25)

I had never previewed a movie I was meant to write about on a TV screen before, and "Kamo" lost a lot of its impact by virtue of being exhibited on videotape. Everyone who loves movies would agree that a huge silver screen and the shimmer of a 35mm print are an integral part of the movie watching experience. A TV set just doesn't do a movie justice.

Slick look

"Kamo" is the story of a con artist named Benici (Bagatsing) who finds himself in quite a few perilous predicaments just so he can pay for his brother Paolo's tuberculosis treatments. As more and more people get involved in Benici's objective, the stakes are raised until "Kamo" becomes the underworld version of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire." The P80,000 which triggers the plot balloons into P5 million as the movie nears its finale.

Who ends up with how much is the surprise twist that the filmmakers hope will delight audiences and turn "Kamo" into an underdog, word-of-mouth hit.

"Kamo" was reportedly produced for less than P4 million, though it looks like it cost a lot more. The presence of Bagatsing and Rita Magdalena plus the work of an experienced production staff give "Kamo" a slick look that never looks low-budget.

Every peso is onscreen, and director Lorenzana gives us a movie which makes creative use of overused locations, thanks to imaginative lighting and clever camera placement.

Foreign influences

The director, I must point out, is also very proud that the "Kamo" soundtrack was mastered on Dolby Surround. The equipment we viewed the movie with didn't take full advantage of this technical feat, but if you watch "Kamo" in a good movie theater, it should sound better than your typical Tagalog movie.

That Lorenzana's cinematic influences are more American and European than Filipino is apparent throughout the movie. Tarantino's "Reservoir Dogs" is recalled in the characterization of the goons and their crime lord boss Big Jimmy (Dido de la Paz). One bloody scene in "Reservoir Dogs" which I never forgot shows one character's ear being cut off. In "Kamo," there's a similarly graphic depiction of one goon's finger being severed.

The European influence is evident in the music score, which consists mostly of variations on the theme from the opera "The Barber of Seville." Even more European is a screenplay (also by Cyril Lorenzana) which relies more on characterization and dialogue than on the fight scenes, gunfights, and explosions which are staples of the Filipino action movie.

Whether this was an aesthetic choice or the result of a limited production budget, I can't say for sure, but "Kamo" certainly feels different in pace and tone when compared to already unconventional studio-backed projects like "La Vida Rosa" and "Radyo."

Unique voice

If you watch "Kamo" attentively, you'll discern the movie's intangible quality. Something about the blending of the performances, situations, dialogue, and humor definitely add up to something new. In his first Filipino film, Lorenzana has at least established a unique voice as a director, like Yam Laranas and Erik Matti.

PLEASANT SURPRISE is provided by Rita Magdalena as the girlfriend of crime lord Dido de la Paz (left).

And what about the cast?

As a con artist who videotapes his female neighbors as they undress, Bagatsing infuses Benici with just the right dose of sympathy, intelligence, and duplicity. Industry wisdom would say, however, that Ba-gatsing isn't ready to carry an entire movie on his shoulders, even though "Kamo" will be immediately followed by another Bagatsing-starrer, Gil Portes' long-delayed "Huwag Kang Kikibo, Diyos Ang Hihipo."

My only quibble with Bagatsing's work in "Kamo" is the scene where he pretends to be gay. The problem? Bagatsing uses the same tics and voice inflections he displayed playing Maricel Soriano's gay best friend in "Soltera."

As the crime lord's abused girlfriend, Magdalena is a pleasant surprise. Although she still shows lots of skin in "Kamo," this is the first movie she's done where she actually appears to be having fun with a role.

Supporting Bagatsing and Magdalena are a strong cast of very good character actors who will not want for work if the right casting directors see this movie. They'll most likely be asked to portray goons and con artists for the remainder of their careers, but hey, at least they'll be working.

Thin line

"Kamo" is a film which could only have been produced by a studio eager to experiment. If Star Cinema produced this movie, they would have put more established (and expensive) stars in the cast to increase box-office prospects.

If Viva had made "Kamo," they would have insisted on placing Rica Peralejo or Raven Villanueva in at least one scene, and mandated breast exposure. Both established studios would probably have insisted on more action and less talk.

Will "Kamo" make it on Nov. 7? Will we see more of Pipe Dream/First Quality Films, or will the notoriously fickle Filipino moviegoer cause the new studio to simply fade away?

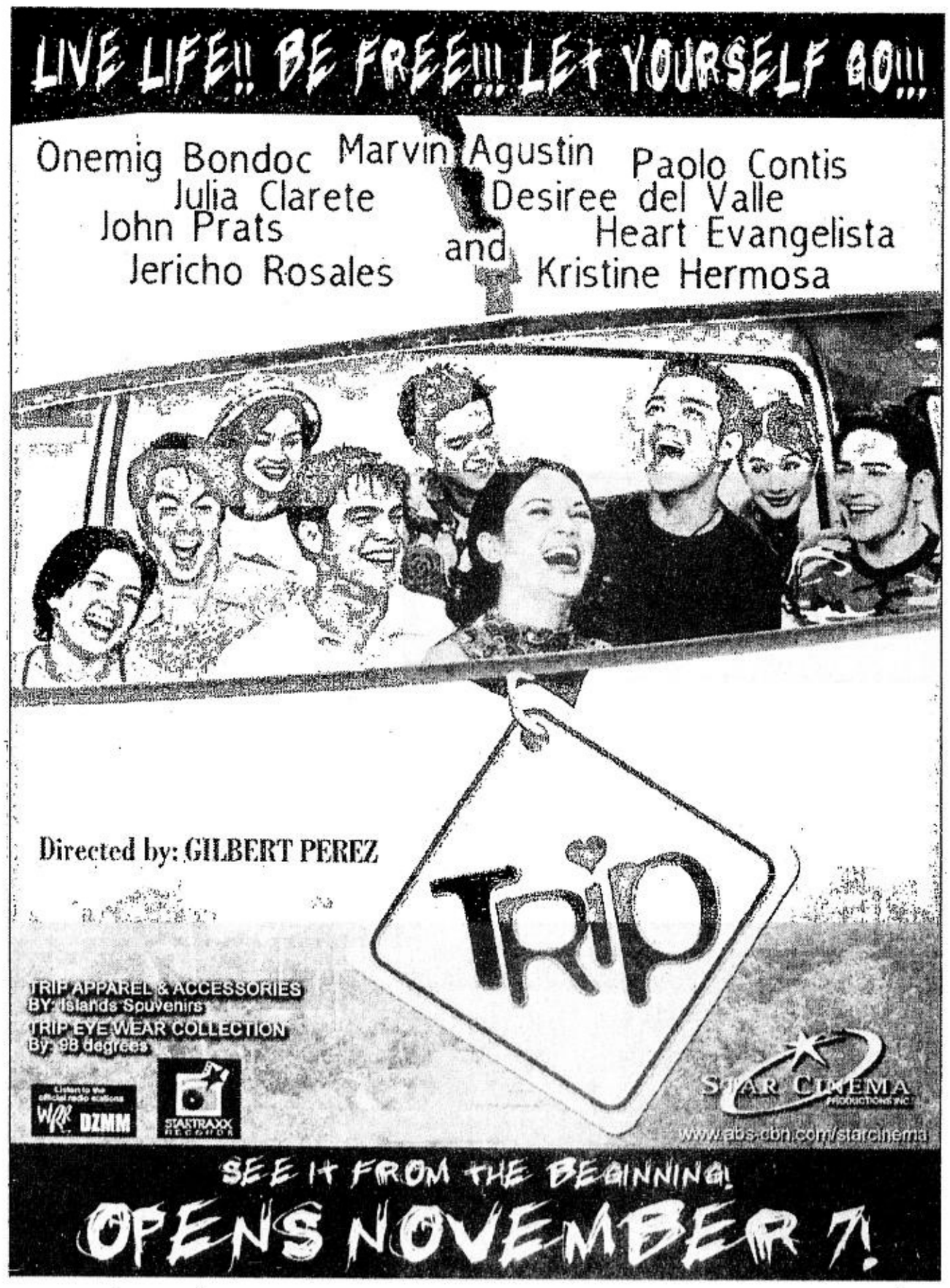
There's a very thin line separating a foolhardy experiment from a successful one, and "Kamo" could fall into either category when it opens.

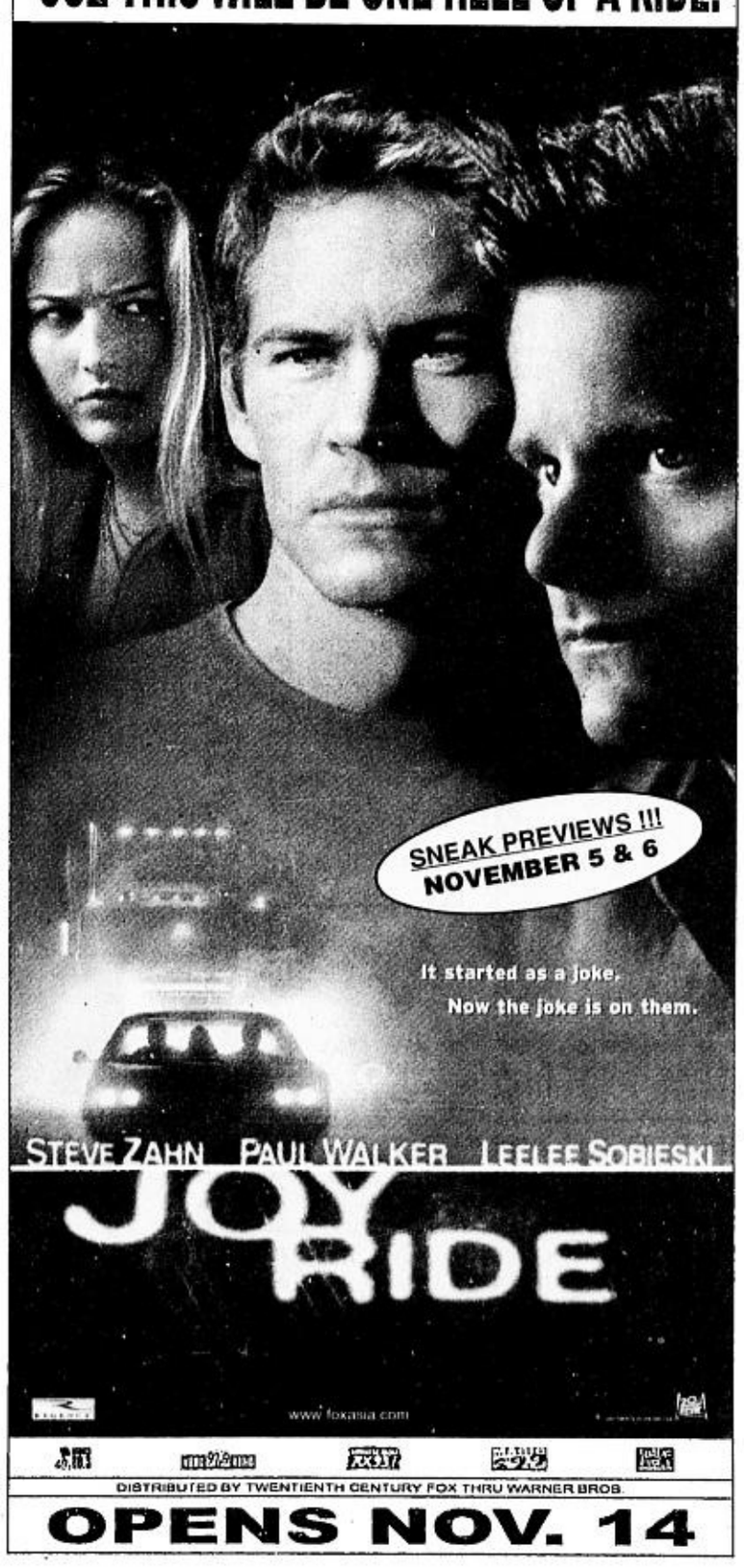
We wish the new movie outfit good luck, and pray they won't lose their shirts because they tried to give the moviegoer something quite new and unexpected.

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

JAY & SILENT BOB STRIKE BACK - R 18 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40	DOWN TO EARTH - P 13 11:45, 1:50, 3:55, 6:00, 8:05, 10:10	LEGALLY BLONDE - P 13 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10
TRAINING DAY - R 18 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	GHOST OF MARS - R 18 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	DON'T SAY A WORD - P 13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.





SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR 4173888

1	DOWN TO EARTH
2	ROSARIO 18
3	DON'T SAY A WORD
4	DOS EKIS
5	GHOST OF MARS
6	JAY & SILENT BOB
7	AMERICAN PIE 2
8	SAKIM SA PAG IBIG

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9395452

1	ROSARIO 18
2	DOS EKIS
3	AMERICAN PIE 2
4	DOWN TO EARTH
5	JAY & SILENT BOB
6	LEGALLY BLONDE
7	DON'T SAY A WORD
8	GHOST OF MARS
9	MANANABAS
10	SAKIM SA PAG IBIG
11	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
12	TRAINING DAY

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522 - 7161416

1	DOS EKIS
2	AMERICAN PIE 2
3	DON'T SAY A WORD
4	JAY & SILENT BOB
5	GHOST OF MARS
6	ROSARIO 18
7	DOWN TO EARTH
8	TRAINING DAY
9	LEGALLY BLONDE
10	SAKIM SA PAG IBIG

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888

1	JAY & SILENT BOB
2	AMERICAN PIE 2
3	DON'T SAY A WORD
4	DOWN TO EARTH
5	LEGALLY BLONDE
6	SAKIM SA PAG IBIG
7	DOS EKIS
8	GHOST OF MARS
9	ROSARIO 18
10	AAGOS ANG DUGO

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9358749

1	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	MANANABAS
3	ROSARIO 18
4	GHOST OF MARS
5	LEGALLY BLONDE
6	DOS EKIS
7	DON'T SAY A WORD
8	DOWN TO EARTH
9	TRAINING DAY
10	SAKIM SA PAG IBIG
11	JAY & SILENT BOB
12	AAGOS ANG DUGO

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L 8820905

1	DOS EKIS
2	GHOST OF MARS
3	ROSARIO 18

SM CEBU 2313838

1	MR. NICE GUY
2	DOS EKIS
3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4	AMERICAN PIE 2
5	GHOST OF MARS
6	LAST ERUPTION
7	13 DAYS

SM CITY MANILA 5228240

1	DOWN TO EARTH
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	JAY & SILENT BOB
4	DON'T SAY A WORD
5	GHOST OF MARS
6	THE BODY
7	TRAINING DAY
8	MANANABAS
9	DOS EKIS
10	SAKIM SA PAG IBIG
11	AMERICAN PIE 2
12	ROSARIO 18

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	THE HOLE
2	CLOSED
3	LAST ERUPTION
4	AMERICAN PIE 2
5	AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
6	PROFESSIONAL FIGHTERS
7	CLOSED
8	13 DAYS

SM MEGAMALL 6331801 • 6329401

1	THE BODY
2	TRAINING DAY
3	GHOST OF MARS
4	DON'T SAY A WORD
5	DOWN TO EARTH
6	JAY & SILENT BOB
7	SAKIM SA PAG IBIG
8	AMERICAN PIE 2
9	DOS EKIS
10	LEGALLY BLONDE
11	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
12	ROSARIO 18

SM PAMPANGA 7128815

1	LEGALLY BLONDE
2	AMERICAN PIE 2
3	TRAINING DAY
4	EXTREME FORCE
5	HIYAS
6	DOS EKIS

SM SUCAT 8291875

1	DOWN TO EARTH
2	DON'T SAY A WORD
3	GHOST OF MARS
4	DOS EKIS

SM TUTUBAN 2514382

1	GHOST OF MARS
2	DON'T SAY A WORD
3	DOS EKIS
4	DOWN TO EARTH

SM DAVAO

SOON TO OPEN
6 STATE-OF-THE-ART MOVIE THEATERS

dts DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

AYALA CINEMAS

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GLORIETTA 1 (formerly QUAD)

1	DON'T SAY A WORD
2	GHOST OF MARS
3	DOWN TO EARTH
4	DOS EKIS

GLORIETTA 4 (All Digital Sound)

1	GHOST OF MARS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	5	DOWN TO EARTH in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	DON'T SAY A WORD in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	6	LEGALLY BLONDE in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
3	DON'T SAY A WORD in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND	7	TRAINING DAY in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	JAY & SILENT BOB STRIKE BACK in DTS DIGITAL SOUND		Art Film

GREENBELT

1	GHOST OF MARS in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	CLOSED in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	DON'T SAY A WORD in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	SNAPSHOTS & PORTRAITS NOV. 10, 16, 17 - 8 PM NOV. 11, 18 - 3 PM Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	DON'T SAY A WORD THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	DOWN TO EARTH in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	GHOST OF MARS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	TRAINING DAY in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	LEGALLY BLONDE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest

FESTIVAL CINEMA (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
2 (SDDS)	DON'T SAY A WORD
3 (DTS)	TRAINING DAY
4 GOLD (DTS)	DON'T SAY A WORD
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	DOWN TO EARTH
6 GOLD (SDDS)	GHOST OF MARS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	JAY & SILENT BOB
8	DOS EKIS
9	AMERICAN PIE 2
10	THE BODY

Pearl Plaza Cinemas (Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
4	SAKIM
5	HIYAS
6 (DTS)	

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	SAKIM
2	DON'T SAY A WORD
3	ROSARIO 18

stormall Movies (Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	DOWN TO EARTH
2	DOS EKIS
3	SAKIM
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	GHOST OF MARS
5	ROSARIO 18

METROPOLIS star (Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	AAGOS ANG DUGO
2	ROSARIO 18
3	SAKIM
4	DOS EKIS
5	GHOST OF MARS
6	DON'T SAY A WORD
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA (Makati City) tel 751.2011 to 13

1	DON'T SAY A WORD

Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC. tel 930.9515

1	
2	ROSARIO 18
3	SAKIM

Spring (Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	HIYAS
A	HOLE

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	DON'T SAY A WORD
2	GHOST OF MARS
3	SAKIM
4	ROSARIO 18

GOTESCO CINEMA

City (Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	GHOST OF MARS
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	AAGOS ANG DUGO
5	SAKIM
6	ROSARIO 18
7 (DTS)	DON'T SAY A WORD
8 (SDDS)	DOWN TO EARTH
9 (DOLBY)	JAY & SILENT BOB

Caloocan tel 362.3508

2	AAGOS ANG DUGO

Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	DOS EKIS
2	SAKIM
3	ROSARIO 18
4 (SDDS)	GHOST OF MARS
5	AAGOS ANG DUGO
6 (DOLBY)	DOWN TO EARTH
7 (DTS)	DON'T SAY A WORD
8	MANANABAS
9	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Commonwealth tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	DON'T SAY A WORD
2	DOS EKIS
3	ROSARIO 18
4	HIYAS
5 (SDDS)	GHOST OF MARS
6	SAKIM
7 (DOLBY)	JAY & SILENT BOB
8	AAGOS ANG DUGO

Ortigas tel 656.6795

1	GHOST OF MARS
2	SAKIM
3 (DTS)	DON'T SAY A WORD
4	ROSARIO 18
5 (SDDS)	AAGOS ANG DUGO

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470

1	AAGOS ANG DUGO

Sampaguita (Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	AAGOS ANG DUGO

Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	ROSARIO 18
Lords	ROSARIO 18
Jennet	SAKIM

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	DON'T SAY A WORD
2	GHOST OF MARS
3	SAKIM

Prima (Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	SAKIM

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto

SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	DOS EKIS
2	DON'T SAY A WORD
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE

New Divisoria Mall

DIVISORIA CINEMA tel 244.4619

1	AAGOS ANG DUGO
2	SAKIM
3	ROSARIO 18
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	GHOST OF MARS

Baclaran LRT

LRT CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
2	SAKIM
3	AAGOS ANG DUGO

Berma tel 879.2029

1	ROSARIO 18
2	AAGOS ANG DUGO

CitiMall (Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	ROSARIO 18
2	SAKIM
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	GHOST OF MARS
2	DOS EKIS
3 (DTS)	DON'T SAY A WORD

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	DOWN TO EARTH
2 (DTS)	DOS EKIS
3 (DOLBY)	GHOST OF MARS
4	DON'T SAY A WORD

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	DOS EKIS
2 (DOLBY)	GHOST OF MARS
3 (DTS)	DON'T SAY A WORD
4	DOWN TO EARTH

Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771

1	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	DOS EKIS
3	
4	

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	DON'T SAY A WORD
2	SAKIM
3	ROSARIO 18
4 (DTS)	GHOST OF MARS

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	GHOST OF MARS
2	DOS EKIS
3 (DTS)	DON'T SAY A WORD
4	HIYAS
5	DOWN TO EARTH

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8803

1	DOS EKIS
2	GHOST OF MARS
3	DON'T SAY A WORD

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 536.5101

1	GHOST OF MARS
2	DOWN TO EARTH
3	DON'T SAY A WORD

Olivarez Tagaytay tel (046) 413.0311

1	TRAINING DAY
2	MANANABAS
3	NAKED NIGHT

Morales Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	DON'T SAY A WORD
2	DOWN TO EARTH
3	

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	HIYAS
2 (DTS)	

Fourstep (Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	CLOSED

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	MARITAL RAPE
2	HIYAS
3	DOS EKIS

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	MANANABAS
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	AMERICAN PIE 2
4	13 DAYS

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	THE BODY
2	NAKED NIGHT
3	
4 (DTS EX)	LEGALLY BLONDE

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

PREMIERE CINEMA THX NOW SHOWING

DON'T SAY A WORD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

NOW SHOWING
State-Of-The-Art-Cinemas

GALLERIA 632 9115 16 / 633-7841 loc. 270

THX	DON'T SAY A WORD
2	DOWN TO EARTH
3	DON'T SAY A WORD
4	TRAINING DAY
5	GHOST OF MARS
6	SILENT JAY BOB STRIKE
7	LEGALLY BLONDE
8	DOS EKIS
9	LEGALLY BLONDE
10	AMERICAN PIE 2

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1	GHOST OF MARS
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	TRAINING DAY
4	SILENT JAY BOB STRIKE
5	DOS EKIS
6	DOWN TO EARTH
7	DON'T SAY A WORD

NOVALICHES 935-3229 TO 31

1	DON'T SAY A WORD
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	DOWN TO EARTH
4	DON'T SAY A WORD
5	DOS EKIS
6	DOS EKIS
7	GHOST OF MARS
8	SILENT JAY BOB STRIKE

IMUS (046) 471-8188

1	GHOST OF MARS
2	DOS EKIS
3	SAKIM
4	DON'T SAY A WORD
5	DOWN TO EARTH
6	SILENT JAY BOB STRIKE

BACOLOD (034) 441-0463

1	OSMOSIS JONES
2	THE BODY
3	MANANABAS
4	THE HOLE
5	AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
6	13 DAYS

SOON TO OPEN

METRO EAST
BAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
ILOILO

THX DTS SDDS DOLBY DIGITAL

SMART MONEY ACCEPTED AT ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD GALLERIA AND ERMITA.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MANANABAS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	13 DAYS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	AMERICAN PIE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	EXTREME FORCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	THE HOLE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	NAKED NIGHTS
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	MANANABAS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	IRA / CLIMAX
ODEON	DOS EKIS
ODEON-2	TRAINING DAY
ROBEN	HIYAS SA PARAISO
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	BROTHERHOOD / STOP

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HIYAS SA PARAISO
REMAR	DOS EKIS
REMAR-2	MANANABAS

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	SAKIM SA PAG IBIG
B	DOS EKIS
C	ROSARIO 18

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 533-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	DON'T SAY A WORD
CINEMA-2	LEGALLY BLONDE

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MARITAL RAPE
CINEMA-2	NAKED NIGHTS
CINEMA-3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	13 DAYS
CINEMA-6	SISID
CINEMA-7	LA VIDA ROSA
CINEMA-8	DOS EKIS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRAINING DAY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-12	THE BODY
CINEMA-14	MANANABAS
CINEMA-15	DOS EKIS

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	JAY & SILENT BOB STRIKE BACK
CINEMA-2	DOWN TO EARTH
CINEMA-3	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-4	TRAINING DAY
CINEMA-5	GHOST OF MARS
CINEMA-6	DON'T SAY A WORD

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	AMORSEKO
CINEMA-2	TOTAL AIKIDO
CINEMA-4	DIBDIBAN ANG LABAN

SALONGA

Tickets to 'Proof' with Lea on sale

EVEN if Lea Salonga is still in Los Angeles earning rave reviews and standing ovations as Mei-Li in the hit revival of "The Flower Drum Song," tickets to her dramatic play, "Proof," will go on sale here starting Nov. 9.

"Proof" is the Pulitzer prize and Tony award-winning play by David Auburn. It will be staged by Atlantis Productions, which secured the rights last May to stage the play in Manila from Jan. 9 to 27, 2002.

Lea will play the lead Catherine, a young woman who is uncertain if she is inheriting her father's insanity or genius. She spent years caring for her brilliant but unstable father, Robert.

On the eve of her 25th birthday, Catherine must deal not only with her father's death, but also with the arrival of her estranged sister Claire and the attention of Hal, her father's former student who hopes to find valuable work in the 103 notebooks that Robert left behind.

"Proof" marks the return of Lea to the dramatic stage after she did "The Bad Seed," when she was only 10 years old.

Joining the cast are film/TV and stage actor Michael de Mesa, fresh from his triumph onstage as Collins in the hit musical, "Rent," and Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, who played understudy to the role of Ellen in the Philippine production of "Miss Saigon."

"Proof" will be directed by Bobby Garcia, with lighting design by Gerry Fernandez.

It will run at the GSIS Theater at the CCP Complex from Tuesday to Sunday, with no Monday and Saturday performances.

For tickets, contact Atlantis Productions at 892-7078 or Ticket World at 891-5610.

Benefit dance show

"DANZ Daze" is a dinner dance show for a good cause on Dec. 1, Saturday, 7 p.m. at Savannah Moon in Libis, Quezon City.

"Danz Daze" features "Eezy Dancing" mainstays led by Hotlegs choreographer Christine Blando.

Also in the lineup are Speed, led by Egay Bautista, the country's Dancesport champions led by Miguel and Lalay, plus a surprise guest.

The event presented by Altech Production Specialist, is a benefit for the Jubilee Homes for the Poor, a recently launched housing program which aims to build and provide shelter for homeless Filipino families.

For inquiries, call Christine Bonnevie of Savannah Moon at 631-0479 or Altech at 931-2456.

Joyce bewitched by 'mysterious' Jericho

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

JOYCE Jimenez remains unruffled despite the emergence of younger screen sirens such as **Rica Peralejo** and **Assunta de Rossi** who like her don't have qualms about baring.

Joyce seems secure in her status in local show biz, even as she refuses to think of her star power.

"I never really think I'm on top," Joyce says. "I always feel there's someone better. That way, I will always be challenged. Even if there are other sexy stars around, that's fine with me. There are always stars who will come and go and I'm one of them. There's always a replacement for someone."

Joyce credits her parents for her attitude.

"That's the way my parents raised me," she offers. "They always tell me never look down on other people and never think you're better than anyone. We're not rich. I live a simple life. I always think I'm equal."

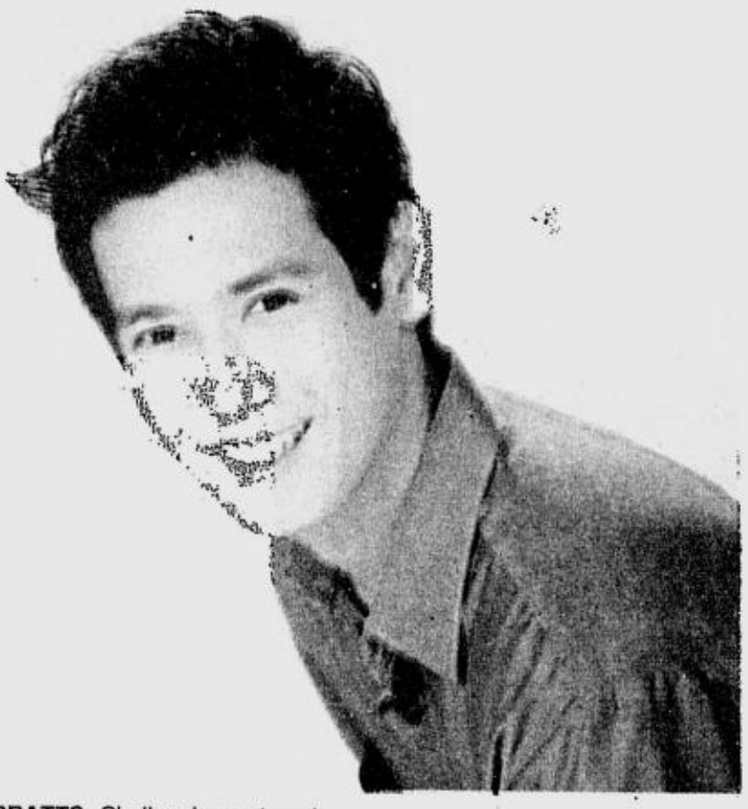
However, unlike the other young female stars who shifted from wholesome to sexy, Joyce is taking the opposite route. After creating a stir for her controversial nude scenes in such films as "Scorpio Nights," "Warat," "Linlang" and "Biyaheng Langit," Joyce is now doing light-romance roles.

Early this year, she starred with **Aga Muhlach** in the feel-good movie, "Narining Mo na Ba ang Latest," which turned out to be a box-office hit.

In her new P40-million film from Regal, "Ang Ba'ng Meron Ka?," Joyce stars with first-time leading man **Diether Ocampo**. The movie reunites her with her "Linlang" director **Maryo J. de los Reyes.**

Unlike her previous movies, "Ano Ba'ng Meron Ka," according to Joyce, is a feel-good, light romance, with a touch of humor. She plays an events organizer who writes a lifestyle column for the Inquirer. The film's newspaper office scenes were shot at the Inquirer office for two weekends.

"I play a party organizer and I organize a party in Boracay and that's where I meet Diether, who owns a restaurant in Manila."



PRATTS. Challenging portrayals.

Joyce notes her male co-star has improved a lot as an actor since she last saw him in "Dahil Mahal na Mahal Kita," where Diether starred with **Claudine Barretto** and **Rico Yan.**

"It's my first time to work with Diet, but he's a very good actor because he supports you in your scenes together," Joyce says. "We had a lot of fun on the set."

After starring in action-drama vehicles such as "Warat" and "Biyaheng Langit," Joyce finds "Ano Ba'ng Meron Ka" a welcome change. It's her third movie this year after "Balahibong Pusa" and "Narinig Mo na Ba ang Latest?" (with Aga Muhlach).

The script of "Ano Ba'ng Meron Ka?" written by Palanca-winning playwright **Jun Llana,** was tailor-made for Joyce and Diether. Lana also wrote the award-winning script of **Marilou Diaz Abaya**'s "Rizal," which starred **Cesar Montano.**

Joyce doesn't disappoint her army of male fans as she has sexy and passionate love-making scenes with Diether, in the bedroom, in a car and on the beach.

"The hardest was the one on the beach which we shot in Boracay," Joyce shares. "There was supposed to be a storm at night, so it was shot with sprinklers for rain effect and industrial blower for the wind. We shot it the whole night. It was so cold and we were naked."

Joyce remains the most sought-after sexy female star in local cinema today. She has a two-picture contract with Star Cinema and another three-picture deal with Regal Films. Even before she could wrap up "Ano Ba'ng Meron Ka," Joyce already started worked on another movie, this time with **Piolo Pascual** with the working title, "Sweethearts." She also does movies for Viva Films on a per-picture basis.

Joyce admits she is still more comfortable doing sexy roles, but wishes to do a challenging and memorable role in a dramatic movie.

"Sexy roles are my forte," Joyce says. "But I will be really excited if I get a role *a la* **Meg Ryan** in 'When A Man Loves a Woman.' I want a role that shows pain."

She also wants to work with young actor **Jericho Rosales,** whom she finds mysterious.

"I saw him in 'Tanging Yaman' and hé was very good in that movie," Joyce says. ""There's something about him in the way he acts. I hope we get a chance to do a movie together."

As far as her personal life is concerned, Joyce appears to be taking a long time to get romantically involved again since her tumultuous relationship with erstwhile boyfriend **Jay Manalo.** With her busy calendar, she says a boyfriend is simply out of the picture for now.

"I think I will only complicate things if I have a love life now," Joyce says. "There's more pressure if you have a boyfriend. My family is my inspiration. Knowing that I can help them, that's enough for me."

FULL OF JOYCE. A love life will only complicate her life now, she says.

Ready for the challenge

JOHN Pratts, 16, can easily melt every young girl's heart with his winsome smile and cherubic face.

John, who used to be a member of the young trio JCS (with **Carlo Aquino** and **Stefano Mori**), displayed his comic flair in the Star Cinema blockbuster, "Narinig Mo na Ba ang Latest," shown early this year.

Before that, he played a happy-go-lucky Fil-Am boy who is the son of **Dina Bonnevie** and **Joel Torre** in Laurice Guillen's award-winning "Tanging Yaman."

The breaks do not stop coming for the lovable John, who is seen regularly on TV as mainstay of the teen variety show "G-Mik."

John is the ideal choice to play the perky and *makulit* Athan in the new youth-oriented "Trip," also produced by Star Cinema.

"I'm like that," John says of his character. "I like gimmicks. I love to have fun and I'm also *makulit* like Athan. He likes to play pranks with his friends."

John stars with other young actors in "Trip." Playing his love interest is show biz newcomer **Heart Evangelista**. Also in the cast are **Onemig Bondoc, Desiree del Valle, Paolo Contis, Jericho Rosales, Kristine Hermosa** and **Julia Clarete. Gilbert Perez** directs.

John enjoys playing teen roles now, but he also expects to do challenging portrayals in the future.

At the rate he is showing his flair for acting, John is indeed on his way to stardom.

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'Ghosts of Mars,' special effects-packed action-suspense thriller from John Carpenter

Mars, 2176 AD. Long inhabited by human settlers, the Red Planet has become the dangerous destiny of an over-populated Earth. 640,000 people now live and work at far-flung outposts all over Mars, mining the planet for its abundant natural resources.

But one of those mining operations has uncovered a deadly mother lode: a long-dormant Martian civilization whose terrifying warriors, now unleashed and unstoppable, are systematically taking over the bodies of human intruders, bent on ridding the planet of the invaders from Earth.

Master of Terror John Carpenter ("Escape from L.A.," "Halloween," "Vampires") presents a new, special effects-packed action-adventure sci-fi thriller starring the sexy Natasha Henstridge ("Species") as Lt. Melanie Ballard of the Mars Police Force. "Ghosts of Mars" is a Columbia Pictures release

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

LIFE IS AN ADVENTURE. DON'T BLOW IT.

Bubble Boy

IMAGINE LIVING YOUR LIFE INSIDE A PLASTIC BUBBLE...

Meet Jimmy Livingston (Jake Gyllenhaal), a 17-year-old kid who has all the normal experiences of a boy growing up, except he lives in a plastic bubble.

Then he falls in love, but the girl he wants will marry another---if he does not stop the wedding in time. So, Jimmy builds a bubble suit.

The movie is an outrageously funny road trip across the U.S., where Jimmy meets bikers, rock stars, freaks and a cult, racing against time and his parents, who are determined to bring him back to the safety of his "bubble room."

A hilarious coming-of-age comedy for anyone who has ever been in love.

LOOK OUT, WORLD, HERE COMES BUBBLE BOY!

OPENS IN CINEMAS ON NOV. 14

MTRCB RATING PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

All-new 'MATRIX'-style sci-fi actioner

Jet Li vs. Jet Li in 'THE ONE'

What if you discovered the most dangerous man in the universe was you?

Jet Li the hero and Jet Li the villain square off in Columbia Pictures' new stunt & special efx-packed sci-fi action thriller, "The One."

The hero is Gabe, a sheriff deputy. He must thwart his predator Yulaw, an evil agent in a parallel universe who gains super power and strength with every alternate self he destroys. Gabe is his ultimate prey.

"The One" features spectacular fight scenes choreographed by the best Hong Kong martial artists, and astounding special effects in the tradition of "The Matrix" and "Terminator 2." Action fans will applaud the non-stop thrill ride of Jet Li's latest mega-blockbuster.

Bakbakan na! OPENS NOV 7!

AYALA CINEMAS ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4 Art Film
NEXT ATTRACTION

MTRCB RATING PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE

PHILIPPINE PREMIERE

The Best Film About The Impact of The Spanish War @ ARTFILM - Glorietta 4

In the tradition of "Cinema Paradiso," BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE explores the extraordinary relationship between a shy young boy, Moncho, and his incredibly compassionate teacher, Don Gregorio, who teaches Moncho to find his way in a world that is increasingly frightening. When the Spanish Civil war breaks out on July 18, 1936, everything for the boy and his hero will unexpectedly change.

BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE stars the Spanish legend FERNANDO FERNAN GOMEZ who has a career that spans five decades as an actor, novelist, poet, and director. In 1998, he won the Goya (Spanish Oscar) for Best Lead Actor for his latest film "The Grandfather. " The film also stars MANUEL LOZANO, UXIA BLANCO, GONZALO MARTIN URIARTE, ALEXIS de los SANTOS and GUILLERMO TOLEDO. The film won Best Film at the Cleveland International Film Festival & Best Screenplay at the Goya Awards.

Directed by JOSÉ LUIS CUERDA and written by RAFAEL AZCONA, BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE is based upon the MANUEL RIVAS novel Que Me Quieres, Amor?.

Language: Spanish with English subtitles

Marilyn Monroe remembered

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IT'S been almost 40 years since Hollywood sex symbol Marilyn Monroe died, but her fame and/or notoriety live on. Its latest manifestation is the Hallmark Channel's new TV mini-series, "Blonde," set to air on Nov. 11 and 12 at 9 p.m.

The mini-series is based on Joyce Carol Oates' controversial biographical novel, which has been criticized for combining fact and fiction. It dramatizes Norma Jean Baker's (Monroe's) life since she was born, her affairs and marriages (to her teenage boyfriend, baseball star Joe DiMaggio and famous playwright Arthur Miller).

It also details her dangerous flirtation with painkillers and abortion, and concludes with her much-criticized song number for then US President John F. Kennedy.

Where does the fiction come in? Pulitzer Prize nominee Oates speculates that, early in her career, Norma Jean had a three-way romance with the wayward sons of Charlie Chaplin and Edward G. Robinson!

Marilyn Monroe is played in "Blonde" by Australian actress Poppy Montgomery. Other major players include Patricia Richardson as her mother, Titus Welliver as Joe DiMaggio, Griffin Dune as Arthur Miller, and Kirstie Alley, Patrick Demprey, Eric Bogosian and Skye Bartusiak as the young Norma Jean.

A major thematic spine of the mini-series is its dramatic thesis that all Norma Jean ever really wanted was to discover the identity of her father, be loved by a man, and be taken seriously as an actress.

The Hallmark Channel is seen on Destiny Cable's Channel 25, Home Cable's Channel 25 and Sky Cable's Channel 38.

Movies on TV

VIEWABLE films on the Cinemax channel this week include:

Sunday, Nov. 4: 12:45 p.m., "Bugsy." Warren Beatty plays Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel, the notorious crackpot gangster who helped make Las Vegas a gambling mecca.

Beatty gives one of the most forceful performances of his career and heats up the screen with his real-life love, Annette Bening, who plays a starlet. A strong supporting cast – Harvey Keitel, Ben Kingsley, Elliott Gould, Joe Mantegna – gives added wallop to the fi lm.

WITHER.SPOON

3:15 a.m., "Private Benjamin." Judy Benjamin, a flighty Jewish-American "princess," enlists in the army to stave off a bout of depression. At first, basic training is a disaster, but she eventually finds direction and self-esteem for the first time in her spoiled and sheltered life. Goldie Hawn plays private Benjamin and her feisty performance earned her a 1980 Oscar Best Actress nomination.

Monday, Nov. 5, 3:30 p.m., "For Whom the Bell Tolls." Screen legends Gary Cooper and Ingrid Bergman team up in this film adaptation of the Ernest Hemingway Pulitzer Prize-winning classic about a US mercenary (Cooper) fighting for Spain with a motley crew of peasants, including a loyalist guerilla played by Bergman.

Tense action, great cinematography and love scenes, beautiful locales, and a marvelous Victor Young score make this a cinematic gem.

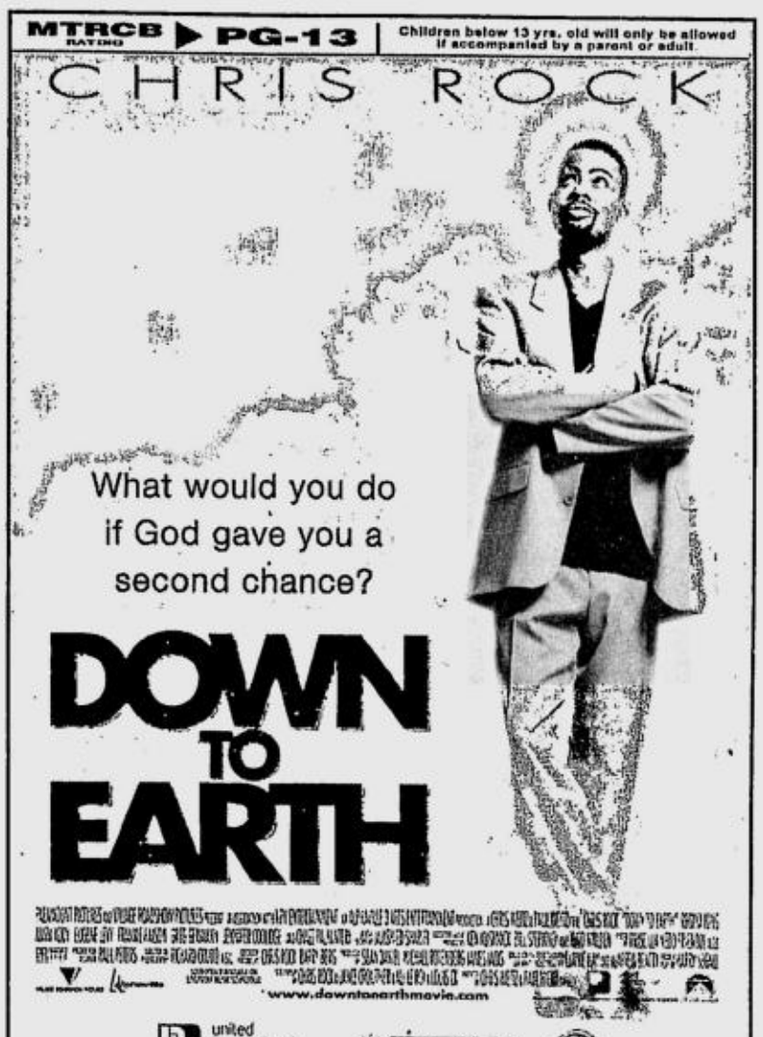
Tuesday, Nov. 6, 8:45 a.m., "Election." One of the funniest and smartest satires about the wild and convoluted race for student body president in a typical American high school.

Reese Witherspoon is the nice but diabolical go-getter who runs for president, expecting to be a shoo-in come election time. Matthew Broderick plays the teacher who decides to thwart her plans by generating some competition against her.

2 p.m., "Notting Hill." Starring the popular Julia Roberts and Hugh Grant, this comic love story about a beautiful and famous actress and an obscure travel book seller was a box-office smash. The script was written by Richard Curtis, who also penned "Four Weddings and A Funeral," the film that make Grant a bankable star.

MTRCB RATING PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

CHRIS ROCK



What would you do if God gave you a second chance?

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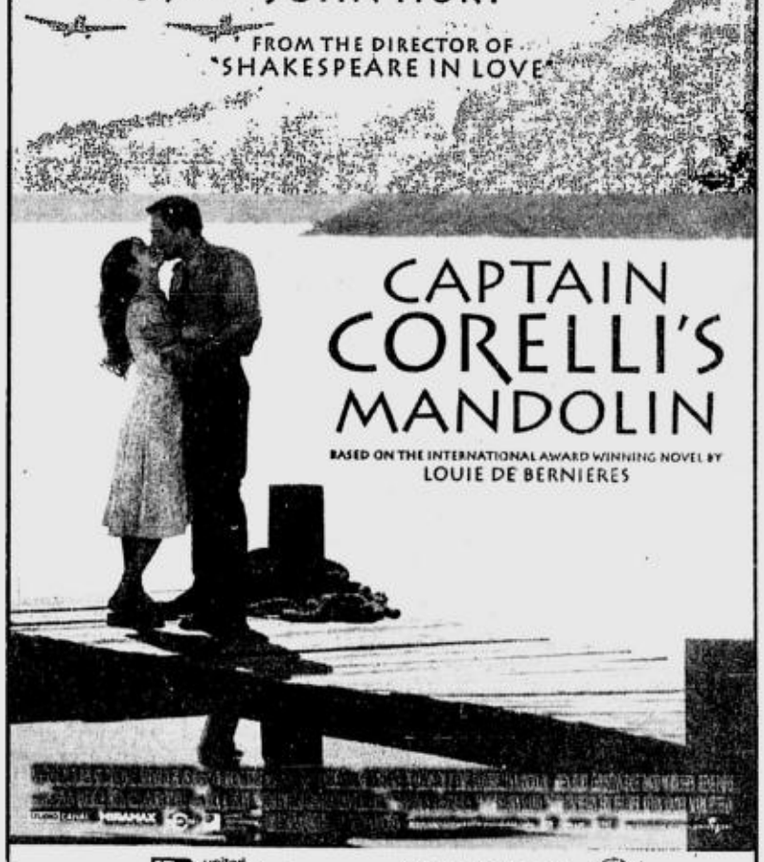
NICOLAS CAGE PENELOPE CRUZ
JOHN HURT
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE"



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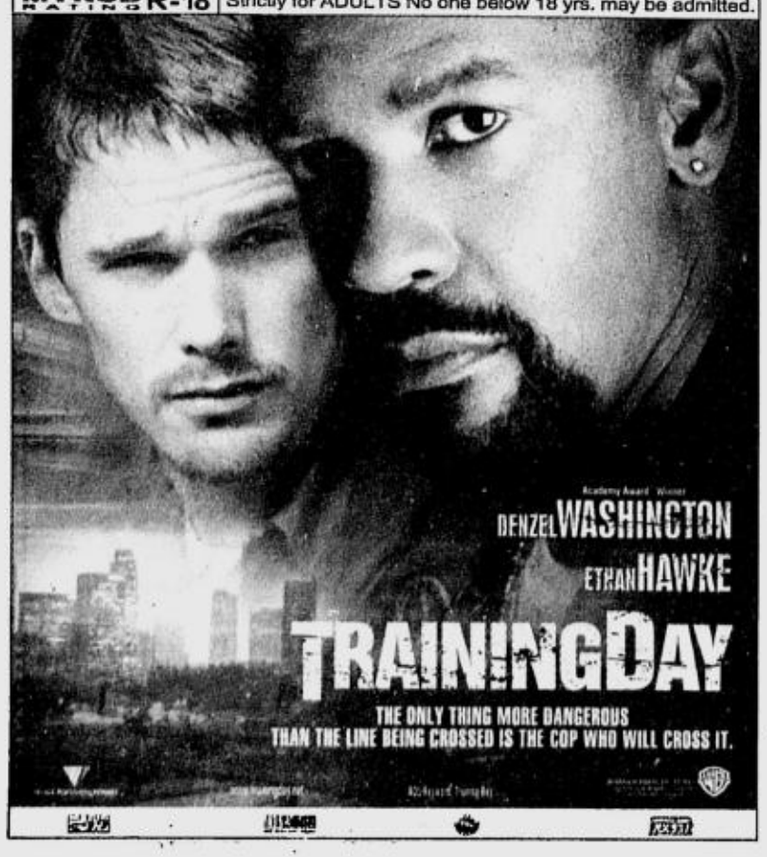

SECOND WEEK !

MTRCB RATING PG-13
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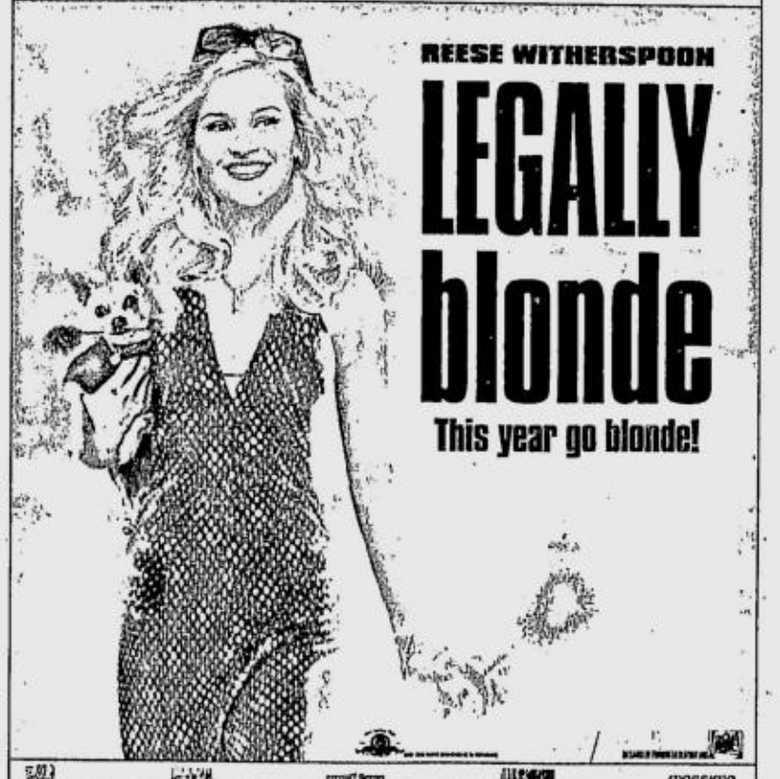

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Parents Strongly Cautioned in bringing children of tender age due to some violent scenes

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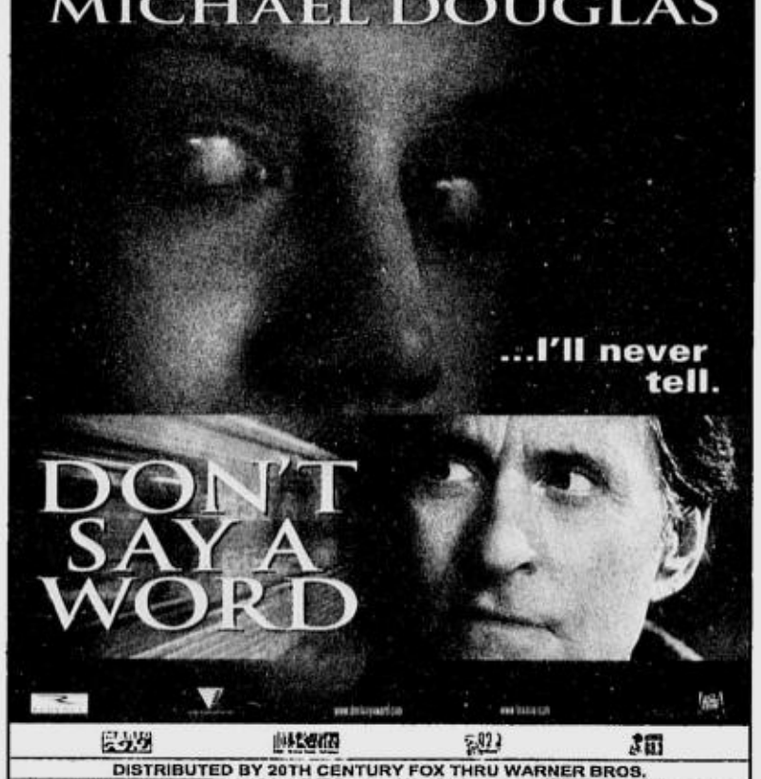

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NOW SHOWING

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

'KAMO'
Something quite new and unexpected

CON ARTIST. Raymond Bagatsing gives his role the right dose of sympathy, intelligence and duplicity in an experiment of a movie that could turn out to be either foolhardy or successful.

BY PAUL DAZA

THE Philippine movie landscape is in a state of flux. Despite the heavy beating which local movie producers are experiencing at the hands of their more

REVIEW

successful Hollywood cousins, there are still a few enterprising Filipino filmmakers who believe they can improve the quality of local movies *and* make a decent profit in the process.

Among these are the people behind a new film production outfit, Pipe Dream/ First Quality Pictures Inc., whose initial offering, the offbeat gangster comedy "Kamo," opens in Manila theaters on Nov. 7.

Starring Raymond Bagatsing and Rita Magdalena, "Kamo" is the directorial debut of Cyril Lorenzana, the primary creative force behind Pipe Dream/ First Quality Pictures. Cyril is a Filipino who took film courses at the respected University of California Los Angeles in the late '80s, after which he toiled on a dozen American projects in various capacities. Most impressive on his resumé, however, is his tenure with Douglas Trumbull, a pioneering visual effects magician who's most famous for his work on Kubrick's "2001: A Space Odyssey," Lucas' "Star Wars" and Spielberg's "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

After sweating it out in Hollywood films, Lorenzana decided to come home to his native Philippines last year and take a crack not only at directing but also co-writing and co-producing his first feature film. The result is "Kamo," a gangster comedy thriller that's inspired by the violent black comedies of Quentin Tarantino and Guy Ritchie, such as "Reservoir Dogs," "Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels," and "Snatch."

Unusual

"Kamo" was recently unveiled to the press in a cozy afternoon get-together, and Lorenzana and his partners talked animatedly about their "first-born." It was obvious from the get-go that this was not your usual press conference. For one thing, "Kamo" was screened not in a 35mm screening room but in a dining room equipped with a VHS player and a 25-inch television.

The neophyte Lorenzanas apparently didn't know that having such a clear copy of the movie on videotape would tempt resourceful video pirates, who are still the industry's biggest headache.

SOMETHING/ A21

American ADOBO

The first Filipino film to premiere in major US cities and Manila simultaneously!

Randy Becker and Dina Bonnevie

Outrider Pictures enters into an agreement with ABS-CBN Entertainment and Unitel Pictures to retain worldwide theatrical distribution rights (excluding the Philippines and Guam) for the film ***AMERICAN ADOBO***. So convinced are the distributors for the film's potential box office success because of the huge population of Filipino immigrants in the U.S. that they planned a simultaneous premiere showing of ***AMERICAN ADOBO*** in New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles alongside its Manila showing this coming November.

Christopher de Leon and Susan Valdez-Le Goff

Malaman, Malasa, 100% All-Filipino Production!

The film ***AMERICAN ADOBO*** is a collaboration of ABS-CBN Entertainment, with Charo Santos-Concio as executive producer, Tony Gloria of Unitel Pictures, Vincent Nebrida of the US-based Magic Adobo Productions and Kevin Foxe, executive producer of the hugely successful *The Blair Witch Project*. Filipino immigrant Nebrida, who also serves as a producer of the film, wrote the screenplay. The film boast of a top-rate cast including Christopher de Leon, Dina Bonnevie, Ricky Davao and Cherry Pie Picache. Paolo Montalban, an up-and-coming actor of Fil-American descent, joins the predominantly Filipino cast.

Wayne Maugans and Ricky Davao

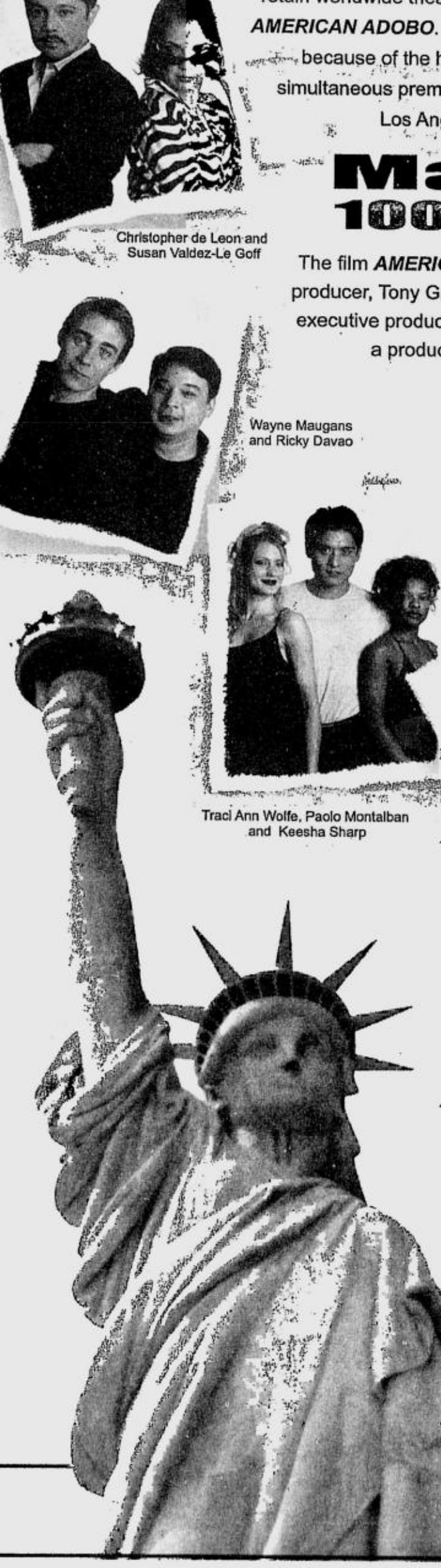
Multi-award winner Laurice Guillen directs the film, assisted by director of photography Lee Meily. They are the same team behind the critical and commercial hit ***TANGING YAMAN***.

Traci Ann Wolfe, Paolo Montalban and Keesha Sharp

Sandy Andolong and Cherry Pie Picache

Director Laurice Guillen

ABS-CBN's **Charo Santos-Concio**, EVP, **Gabby Lopez**, Chairman, and **Freddie Garcia**, President, pose with Unitel's **Tony Gloria** *(third from left)* after signing the US and worldwide distribution agreement for *"American Adobo"*.



Spicy Comedy With A Dash Of Drama Shot Totally In New York.

AMERICAN ADOBO is a heartwarming slice-of-life mix of comedy and drama, about friends sharing laughs, secrets, lovers and recipes. Shot totally in New York, it follows the lives of five Filipino-American friends over a period of a year. Still, the film's themes are universal: friendship and an immigrant's struggle to maintain cultural integrity in a foreign country.

"It rings with so much truth about the way we Filipinos live in America. I could hear myself and my friends talking," says Marina Feleo-Gonzales, award-winning screenwriter of the acclaimed Filipino film MINSA'Y ISANG GAMU-GAMO. Director Laurice Guillen says, "It will appeal to every single cultural group that has tried to remain intact in a foreign place while adapting to the place at the same time.

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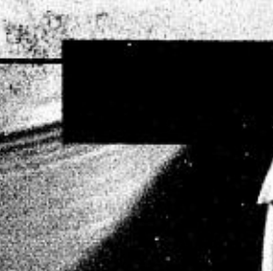

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SundayBIZ
RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ▪ MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

Toyota takes road less traveled

BY RAUL O. MARCELO

TOKYO—Car manufacturers have varying views on which road the automobile industry is heading. Some focus on speed, others emphasize on design and efficiency. Still a few push for a combination of both.

Toyota Motor Corp.'s exhibition at the 35th Tokyo Motor Show, which runs until Nov. 7, reveals how the world's third biggest vehicle maker is evolving into what it calls a "Total Mobility Provider."

And it is taking the road less traveled by betting on hybrid and fuel cell technologies.

Toyota says it is confident that hybrid technology—the use of gasoline and electricity to run a vehicle—holds the key to the automobile's future. Toyota leads the world in hybrid technology, with its Prius and other hybrid vehicles contributing to a cleaner environment since 1997.

Hybrid technology indeed promises the best of both worlds. In a hybrid vehicle, the power of the internal combustion engine is combined with the clean efficiency of the electric motor.

The result: a car that is the equal of conventional gas-fed vehicles in range and performance, with far fewer harmful emissions and much better fuel economy.

It was in 1997 when Toyota introduced the Prius—the world's first mass-produced hybrid car—to the Japanese market. Last year, a new Prius, with a better fuel economy (20 kilometers to a liter), a roomier interior, and higher performance was released in the North American and European markets.

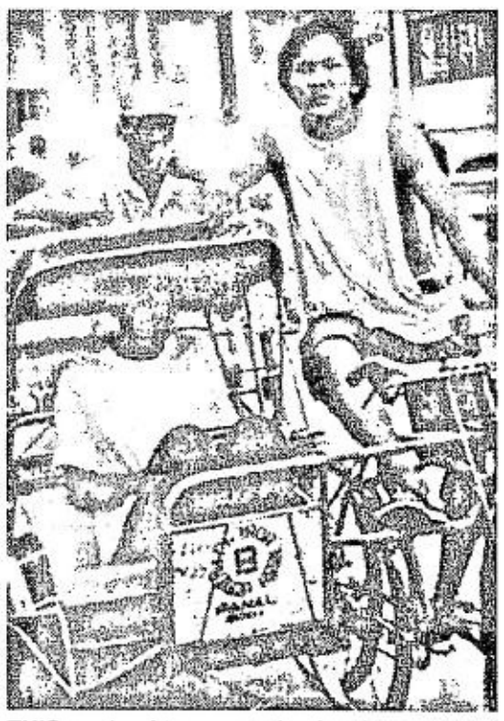
To date, more than 70,000 Priuses have been sold worldwide. The Prius is also available in Hong Kong, Singapore and Australia.

Toyota says it is targeting to achieve annual production of more than 300,000 hybrid vehicles by the year 2005.

Today, Toyota is also working hard on hydrogen-powered fuel cells, which emit only clean

TOYOTA/ B2

ES³ (Eco Spirit cubic): This is a small, lightweight four-person concept car showcasing Toyota's environmental technologies for high fuel efficiency: it consumes only 2.7 liters of diesel for every 100 km driven.



THIS mode of transportation has been around since the late '50s.

'Sikad-sikad,' Bicol's street gondola

BY ROLY EMBILE
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

TABACO CITY—When the *sikad-sikad* takes to the road in this city, like pedestrians and motorists take extra care to give it a wide berth. Like royalty. Because, indeed, it is the king of the road here.

At any time of day, a hoard of some 3,000 *sikad-sikad*, sleek and fragile-looking pedal tricycles whose name means to "kick continuously" in the Bicol dialect, plies the streets here.

This mode of transport made its first appearance here in the late '50s and has since spread like an invading hoard in most towns in Albay province and later in the whole Bicol Region, making it practically the rolling landmark of the place of its birth.

Residents and visitors alike know they are here when they see the *sikad-sikad*.

The *sikad-sikad* driver takes to the highway with the least air of caution, seemingly exempted from the rules and regulations of traffic and ignorant of most signs.

He parks, makes U-turns, picks up passengers and invades the center lanes, causing traffic snarls.

Only recently has the city government implemented a program of educating the *sikad-sikad* drivers, assigning routes and banning them from some major streets, and similar traffic safety measures.

Environment-friendly

Its phenomenal popularity and subsequent proliferation derive from practical reasons.

Concerns about air, water, land and sound pollution—and fear of potential environmental disasters it threatened to unleash—prodded the world to take action.

With this and the energy crises triggered by the Middle East war in the early '70s, which resulted in prohibitively steep oil prices, the *sikad-sikad* instantly became the unanimous alternative and the in-thing.

It does not use prohibitively expensive petroleum and therefore does not create noxious fumes and offending motor sound.

If only because of the simplicity of its basic characteristics and the cheaper fare (P1 less than the minimum fare of P4 per person), the *sikad-sikad* firmly established itself as the prime mover of the short distance door-to-door commuter.

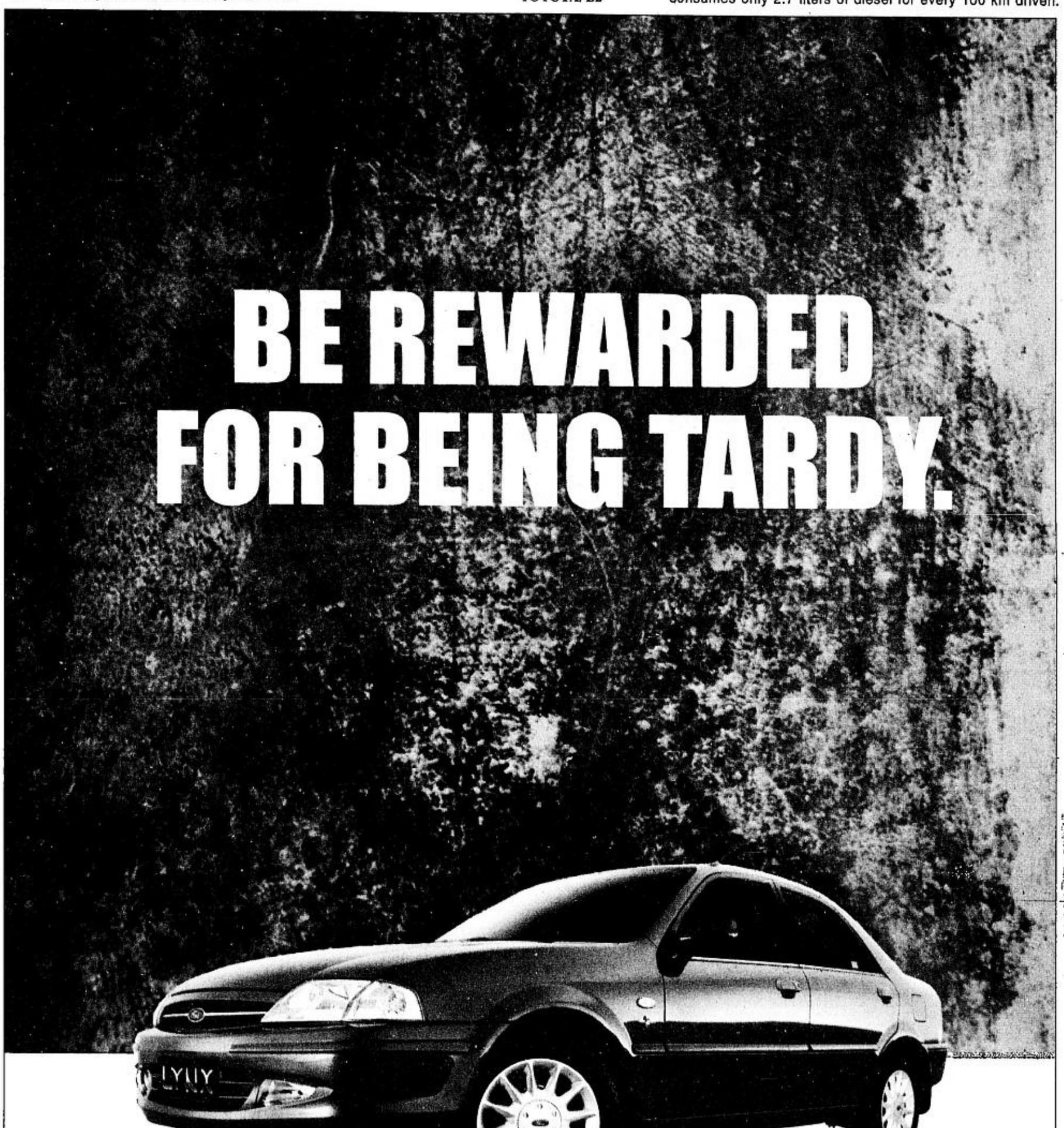
"When you have a chance to ride a thing that is so cheap, does not kill you with its fume, or kick up a lot of dust and heap dung in front of you, or cause you inconvenience when it strikes, you have the best ride," former Tabaco Mayor Jim Berces, said of the *sikad-sikad*.

Economic powerhouse

It is relatively cheap to acquire and easy to operate. Even those who do not know how to ride a bicycle can take to the *sikad-sikad* instantly.

And best of all, in Tabaco City alone, where neither a test nor a license is required of its driver, the *sikad-sikad* offers the most readily accessible and biggest local job market.

SIKAD/ B4



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IN YOUR FACE

BY L. P. LEVISTE

JAIME Dichaves, one of the alleged cronies of former President Joseph Estrada, has been charged with plunder along with his former patron. Plunder is a crime punishable by death.

SHOWN here in this photo (center) Rupert K. Suarez, Finex president, presents the first copy of Paragons to Joselito D.Y. Campos, chair and CEO of United Laboratories, who was among the business leaders featured in the book. Also present to witness the event were (from left) Teresita O. Salonga (Finex project coordinator), Carlos C. Ejercito (president and COO-Unilab) and Marily Y. Orosa (president-Studio 5 Designs)

Doing business with China? Have a 'Chinese mindset' first

"Inside Chinese Business"
By Ming-Jer Chen
Harvard Business School Press 2001

BY DANTE M. VELASCO

THERE IS something disarming—and charming—when two leaders do a duet. Two Presidents did it: President Macapagal-Arroyo belting out "It's Now or Never" to the beat of "O Sole Mio" being sung by Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

Later, in a press conference, President Macapagal, never to miss the magic of the moment, said: "We do share some common dreams, love of music, and it really highlights that we are blood brothers."

We do hope that contentious issues between our two countries disappear with the wave of a magic wand, and commerce rises to a high pitch when the two singers bring their voices one octave higher.

And yet, if the book "Inside Chinese Business" is to be believed, appearances, after-dinner niceties, and occasional banquets—while useful—do not quickly endear anyone to the enigmatic Chinese.

One must invest in *guanxi* relationships—one "grounded in trust, mutual obligations, and shared experiences."

Author Ming-Jer Chen narrates a story of an American executive who hosted expensive banquets for six months for local government officials in China.

"Inevitably," Chen says, "his business hit a bureaucratic snag one day, and he turned to his former dinner guests for help. To his surprise, none of these officials lifted a finger to help him."

The author dishes out an important truth: In the eyes of the Chinese, the American executive was a "meat and wine friend"—meaning, he makes a great show of friendship, but his commitment to his friends is in fact superficial.

The good news is, according to Chen, while *guanxi* can be exclusive, it is not impenetrable."

If you are a *shengren*, a stranger, you can still be linked to the inner circle through networks that are faithfully and patiently nurtured over time. "Westerners have difficulty understanding this," Chen says, "and it has become a source of frustration."

EXECUTIVE READ

The book's subtitle, "A Guide for Managers Worldwide," is an understatement—because it is not your usual how-to guide, with a map thrown in as a bonus.

The book is certainly crafted by an expert—amply equipped by the discipline of a scholar, rooted in culture and Confucian philosophy he knows by heart, and enriched by productive consulting work with global firms reaping success in China.

The logic holds you by the hand and engages your mind with well-organized chapters and tables that give you a snapshot of Chinese philosophy, migration, symbolic gestures, etc. Chen first gives you the big picture, and then zeroes in on a famous Chinese family.

For the big picture, for example, this one paragraph tells you how important and influential Chinese business is in these parts or even around the globe:

"Even though they are a small minority in their adopted countries, the Chinese now control a disproportionate share of these countries' national trade. In Indonesia, for example, where the Chinese population is 4 percent of the country's total, it controls 70 percent of the trade.

In the Philippines, where the Chinese population is but 3 percent, it also manages to control 70 percent of all business. Thailand's population is 3 percent Chinese, and yet the Chinese control 60 percent of the trade."

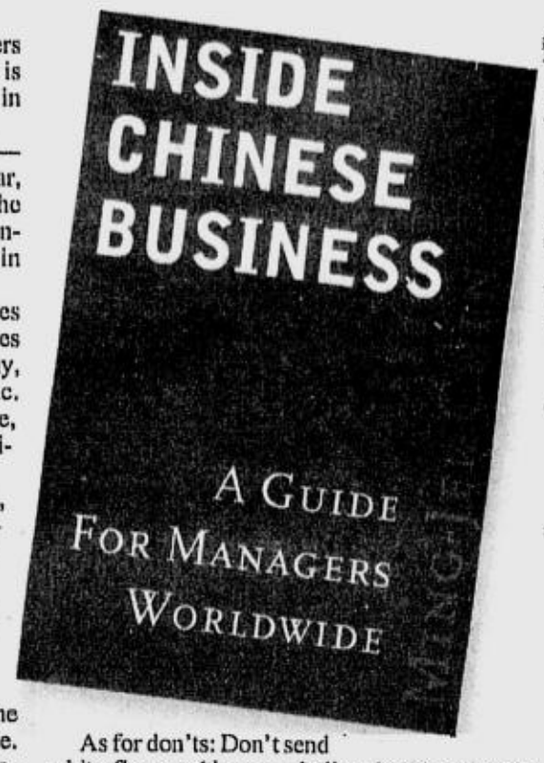
What makes this book interesting is its discussion of large Chinese firms that have somehow been major players, too, in the Philippines.

Lucio Tan is listed among the 20 "Key Chinese Business Families Across Asia." In a table showing the generations of leaders for Chinese businesses, Manuel Pangilinan is cited as "the professional friend of Anthony Salim," and is thus trusted by the Salim Family of Indonesia and Hong Kong. Major families in Hong Kong, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand—and even in the United States—are featured in this book.

But this book can be many things to many people. It is a study in history, culture, philosophy, strategy, demographics—and social grace.

For someone who knows the pitfalls of Western executives, Chen lectures them on some elementary social grace to make sure they don't offend potential Chinese partners.

Here are Chen's to do's: Give your business card with both hands, send gifts that are meaningful to you and the receiver, accompany guest to the elevator or even to the front door.



As for don'ts: Don't send white flowers (they symbolize death) and don't say "no" (there must be ways to sidestep the issue so that the other does not lose "face"). If you think this is unimportant for business, you are missing the point—which is, that symbolic gestures are important for "relationship-oriented" partnerships—as opposed to the West's "transaction-based" agreements.

The book is also rich with philosophical anchors, mostly Confucian, and lessons in strategy, mostly Sun Tzu's.

"Following Confucius, the family unit was given a moral dimension. Confucius extended the family beyond its functional role as a natural working unit to serve as the prototype for a broader societal network of morally binding, mutually dependent relationships."

Chen quotes an anthropologist to drive the point home on Chinese kinship networks: "Money has no past, no future, and no obligations. Relatives do."

Like Chinese culture, this book has many layers of truths and meanings. It may not transform you to "becoming" Chinese, but it will give you the right "Chinese mindset." This, of course, takes some time—but whoever said that it is easy to nurture a lasting—and rewarding—relationship?
(dantemv@i-next.net)

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone

DRIVEN TO EXTREMES

ACROSS
1 Go (for)
4 Rock's — Jovi
7 Prettify a poodle
11 Tom or tabby
14 Baja bite
18 Opera prog.
19 Psychic Geller
20 — -de-camp
21 Ben — -Wan Kenobi
22 Eager
23 Speaker of remark at 30 Across
26 Aries animal
27 Josip Broz
28 Synthetic fiber
29 Wallach of "The Deep"
30 Start of a remark by 23 Across
33 Actress Barbara
35 Border on
38 Throne and pew
39 "Saint Joan" monogram
41 Tasty tuber
43 Drilling site?
45 "It — Be You" ('24 song)
49 Part 2 of remark
55 Fight site
56 Nabokov novel
57 "I told you so!"
58 TV's "— for Adventure"
59 Show one's feelings
60 One of the Marches
62 109 Across abbr.
64 Aries assent
65 Ray
67 "Fatha" Hines
70 Part of CPA
73 Thompson or Salonga
74 Part 3 of remark
79 Advanced deg.
82 Blyton or Bagnold
83 Tender
84 Fell
87 O'Hare info
88 Rita of "Klute"
90 Baseball's Bucky
93 Freeze
95 Beautiful butterfly
99 Genesis vessel
102 "Da — Ron Ron" ('63 hit)
103 "Kol —"
104 Part 4 of remark
108 "Lovergirl" singer Marie
109 Weight Watchers fixture
110 Bear lair
111 Burro
112 Strep's kin
114 List ender
116 Move like a mouse
119 Part 5 of remark
124 You can retire on it
126 Toad features
129 Madame Bovary
130 "— pro nobis"
131 End of remark
135 Row
136 Garage supply
137 Auctioneer's cry
138 Hunan pan
139 — -Magnon
140 Disoriented
141 Welcome item?
142 Duel tool
143 Society column word
144 Boar's beloved

DOWN
1 Gymnast Korbut
2 Wharf
3 Butcher's offering
4 Army brass?
5 Trams transport it
6 Likable
7 West Indian
8 "— Abner"
9 Name in Ugandan politics
10 Hang in the balance
11 Angel on horseback
12 Islamic garment
13 Hutton and Dalton
14 "Little Man —" ('91 film)
15 Tel —
16 Quote an expert
17 Bouquet
24 Chianti color
25 Pie —
31 Sanford of "The Jeffersons"
32 Grammarian's concern
34 Comic Louis
36 Thurman of "The Avengers"
37 "Sixteen —" ('55 song)
39 Growl
40 Anesthetizes an audience
42 "Pequod" captain
44 Caustic substance
46 '49 Edmond O'Brien film
47 Alpine area
48 Perfectly timed
50 Pizarro's victims
51 Livestock
52 Moisten the marigolds
53 "— Inferno" ('78 hit)
54 Karmann — (Volkswagen model)
61 Beaver and beret
63 Sound like a hound
66 Forever and a day
68 PI follower
69 Cooking fat
71 Bossy's chew
72 Like hard work
75 British Isle
76 Author LeShan
77 Indigent
78 Word form for "community"
79 — Cass
80 Facade
81 Palmer, to pals
85 Branch of medicine
86 Goes bad
89 "Man of La —"
91 Pasta
92 Pitch
94 Violin parts
96 Citrus cooler
97 Washer cycle
98 Theater feature
100 Nutritional abbr.
101 Cabbage cousin
105 Paving material
106 Badminton divider
107 Final point
113 Lofty spaces
115 Put up with
117 Rouse
118 Made tracks
119 Chalky cheese
120 Baudelaire's buddies
121 "Peter Pan" pirate
122 Mitchell homestead
123 AMEX rival
125 Time to crow?
127 Starch source
128 Flat-bottomed boat
132 "Alley —"
133 Diminutive suffix
134 Drabowsky or Berg

ANSWER ON PAGE A20

FCHV-4: An experimental fuel cell hybrid vehicle, it is powered by pure compressed hydrogen and has a top speed of 150 km an hour and a cruising range of 250 km. It aims to be the cleanest and most environment friendly because all it will emit is a vapor of pure, clean water.

Toyota takes road less traveled

(From page B1)

water and electricity. Using the Fuel Cell Hybrid Vehicle (FCHV), Toyota developed an on-board reformer to make hydrogen from Clean Hydrocarbon Fuel (CHF), a refined form of gasoline that can be used by any ordinary car.

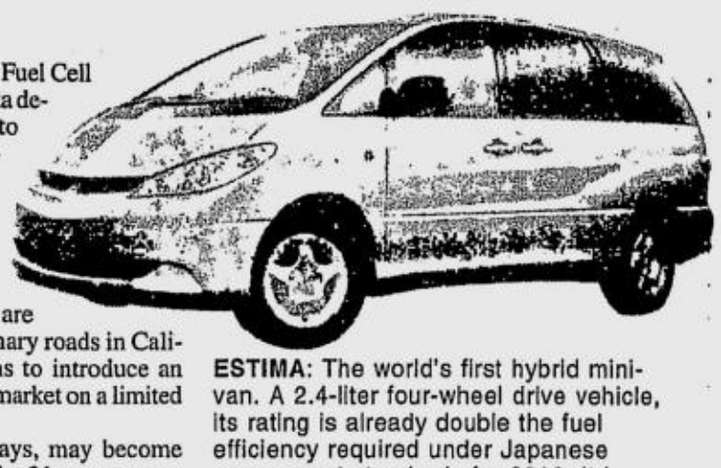
Seven of these vehicles, which run on pure hydrogen stored in high-pressure tanks, are now being test-driven on ordinary roads in California and Japan. Toyota aims to introduce an FCHV vehicle to the Japanese market on a limited basis in 2003.

These fuel cells, Toyota says, may become the ultimate power source of the 21st century.

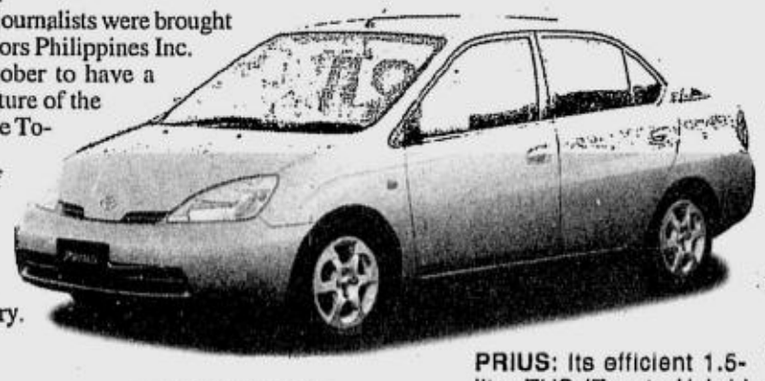
Extreme fuel efficiency, on the other hand, is the aim of the ES3 (Eco Spirit cubic) by new technologies that decreased weight, improved power train, enhanced aerodynamics and reduced rolling resistance of the car.

A handful of Filipino journalists were brought to Tokyo by Toyota Motors Philippines Inc. in the last week of October to have a first-hand view of the future of the automobile industry at the Tokyo Motor Show.

Here are some of Toyota's vehicles—some real, the others still a concept—that the company says will push mobility into fresh territory.



ESTIMA: The world's first hybrid minivan. A 2.4-liter four-wheel drive vehicle, its rating is already double the fuel efficiency required under Japanese government standards for 2010. It has a cruising range of 1,000 kilometers on one tank of gas. Its main distinction from the Prius is the E-Four or a rear-mounted, rear-wheel-propelling electric motor.



PRIUS: Its efficient 1.5-liter THS (Toyota Hybrid System) power plant exceeds both California's and Europe's stringent environmental standards.

CROWN: A "mild hybrid," a motor/generator is connected to the engine's drive shaft. While stationary, the engine shuts off and the electric motor runs the air-conditioner and other accessories. It also powers the vehicle during startup. This improves fuel efficiency by as much as 15 percent, over a conventional power train.

Pokemon opens first store in New York City

NEW YORK—The owners of the Pokemon property are determined that those cute Japanese characters don't become a fast fad.

They're counting on a two-level 1,170-square-meter store at 10 Rockefeller Center—Pokemon's first in the United States—to woo loyal fans as well as convert new ones.

"We want this to be a long-term brand," said Dave Hillenbrand, general manager of Pokemon USA Inc., a New York-based subsidiary of The Pokemon Co. in Japan.

The flagship store, to open Nov. 15, will feature 2,500 products, from $2 stickers and trading cards to a one-of-a-kind $1,600 electric guitar.

Hillenbrand declined to offer sales projections, but said he wants the store not only to be a marketing vehicle but also a money maker.

But some toy analysts question whether the brand, which has seen its popularity fade in the States, has enough legs to sustain the business. The store is also opening at a time of slowing retail sales, including toys.

"Pokemon has established itself as a property with broad-based international appeal," said Charles Riotto, president of the International Licensing Merchandisers' Association. "But it remains to be seen whether the popularity can be long-term."

Riotto pointed out that even such classic entertainment brands like Walt Disney and Warner Brothers have to resort to shuttering many of its stores.

Chris Byrne, an independent toy consultant is more optimistic.

"The Pokemon market is certainly compressing. It is not as broad, but they are going from a mass market strategy to a niche marketing strategy," he said. "They are capitalizing on the kid who is loyal. It speaks to the maturation of the property."

Clearly, Pokemon, launched in Japan in 1996 and unveiled in North America two years later, has become a global cultural phenomenon.

The business, which includes video games, apparel, lunch boxes, and trading cards, has so far totaled $14 billion worldwide. Bruce Loeb, a spokesperson at Pokemon USA, noted that total US sales of Pokemon were $3 billion last year, up 67 percent from the year before.

But toy analysts noted that sales have been tough in certain categories—particularly housewares, apparel, school supplies and traditional toys—since the middle of last year. Hasbro Inc., a major supplier of Pokemon toys under license, has also been hard hit by slowing sales.

Nonetheless, Pokemon's video game sales continue to be stellar. Nintendo, the supplier of its games, reports that sales of

POKEMON/ B4

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Toronto, Canada – ***Internet Business Opportunities Expo comes to Manila.*** WSI, the #1 rated Internet franchise in the world - often referred to as the McDonalds of the Internet - has more than 700 offices in 87 countries.

Mr. Nigel Mayne, WorldSites President

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Wed, Nov, 7, at 12:00pm & 7:00pm
Thu, Nov 8, at 12:00pm & 7:00pm

Location:
SHANGRI-LA MAKATI, Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1200 Tel: 632-813-8888

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Join futurist Nigel Mayne, president of WSI as he discusses WSI and the future of the Internet in Manila.

www.worldsites.net / philippines@worldsites.net

MILK YOUR WAY TO A HEALTHIER, HAPPIER LIFE

For ages, people have known that milk is good for the bones. But did you know that milk could be excellent for the heart and mind as well? A new nutritional drink has put together all the essential nutrients for a healthy heart, mind and bones in a milk drink for adults. This is New **Enervon Prime Milk Powder.**

A product of Philippine Health Food Manufacturing, Inc. (PhilHealth), a subsidiary of United Laboratories, Inc., Enervon Prime Milk Powder comes after the successful launch of its Chocolate flavor last year.

Enervon Prime Milk, like its chocolate counterpart, is nutritionally balanced and scientifically formulated to combat cell degeneration. This condition, which starts at age 50, weakens the body's most important organs - the heart, brain and bones. These eventually lead to heart disease, memory loss and osteoporosis respectively.

But with Enervon Prime Milk, adults can cope with old age and live with much needed vitality. Each glass has all the recommended nutrients to prevent cell damage. These include Folic Acid, Choline, Taurine and Calcium - in higher amounts than the leading adult nutritional formula.

Folic Acid is a B-vitamin that is clinically proven to reduce the risk of heart disease by repairing damaged and clogged arteries. Choline, better known as the "memory vitamin" plays an important role in the formation of neurotransmitter acetylcholine. This is known to improve cognitive performance, helping bring about better mental concentration. Taurine is important in keeping the body energized which is essential for active lifestyles, while Calcium helps strengthen bones to further prevent bone fracture.

Aside from these, Enervon Prime Milk has Medium Chain Triglycerides (MCT) that provide the body with energy, as well as 30 other nutrients to keep the physical and intellectual systems working at their peak. **Helping them age well with a healthier heart, brain and bones.**

With the introduction of Enervon Prime Milk, adults have now two ways to live a healthier and happier life. **New Enervon Prime Milk** and **Enervon Prime Chocolate Flavor.**

Enjoy the healthy goodness of Enervon Prime in a creamier way with New Enervon Prime Milk. Each glass of this pure Milk powder is loaded with nutrients to keep your body at the peak of health. These include Folic Acid that reduce the risk of heart diseases by repairing damaged and clogged blood vessels. Choline and Taurine increase activity in the brain's neurons to enhance memory. While Calcium further strengthens bones to prevent osteoporosis. Drink Enervon Prime Milk everyday and live a healthier and happier life. So whether you choose the new Milk powder or chocolate, with Enervon Prime, you can age well.

Age well with healthy heart, brain and bones.

(From left) **ARTHUR** Ty, Marixi Prieto, Metrobank chair George Ty, Cynthia Valenzuela, president, Unibancard Corp., Ana Sobrepeña and Alex Prieto

(From left) **LILIAN** Lim of Metrobank Taipei, Elvira Chan and Cielito Habito, Metrobank director

(From left) **MR. AND** Mrs. Eddie Galsano, Florencio Mallari, Global Bank director and James Go, Metrobank executive director

(From left) **ALFONSO** Sly, Benjamin Chua, president, Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Miguel Varela, president, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

BENJAMIN Chua of the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce (at left) with Metrobank adviser Paul Cuyegkeng

Once upon a time in China, Metrobank brings in over 100 guests

THE METROBANK group led by its chairman George Ty brought over 100 guests to Shanghai, China, to witness the opening of its first branch, marking the first time that a Philippine bank sets up shop in mainland China.

Ty said in his opening remarks during the inaugural cocktails that the group anticipated the emergence of China and Shanghai, in particular, since the early 1990s.

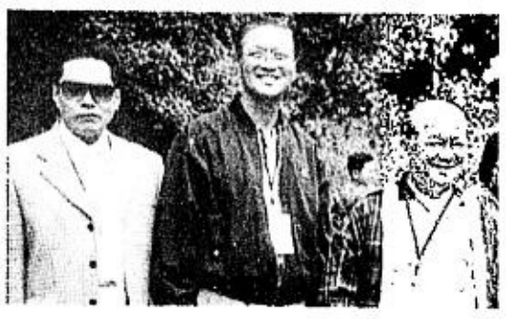
Metrobank wanted to be one of the first to set foot in what is to be one of the most important financial centers in the world.

"For us, it is a single achievement that brings great pride but more importantly, it is our hope that this event ushers in a new era of partnership between our two countries," Ty said.

"In bringing our experience and network as one of the Philippines' leading banks, we aim to offer world-class financial services to assist Chinese enterprises looking for opportunities in the Philippines. We also seek to help our fellow Filipinos who are doing business in Shanghai by providing them quality banking products with our distinctive brand of service," he added.

THE LEANING Pagoda, the Pisa of the East.

SOME of the country's business leaders join the Metrobank group in witnessing the opening of the first Philippine bank to operate in mainland China.



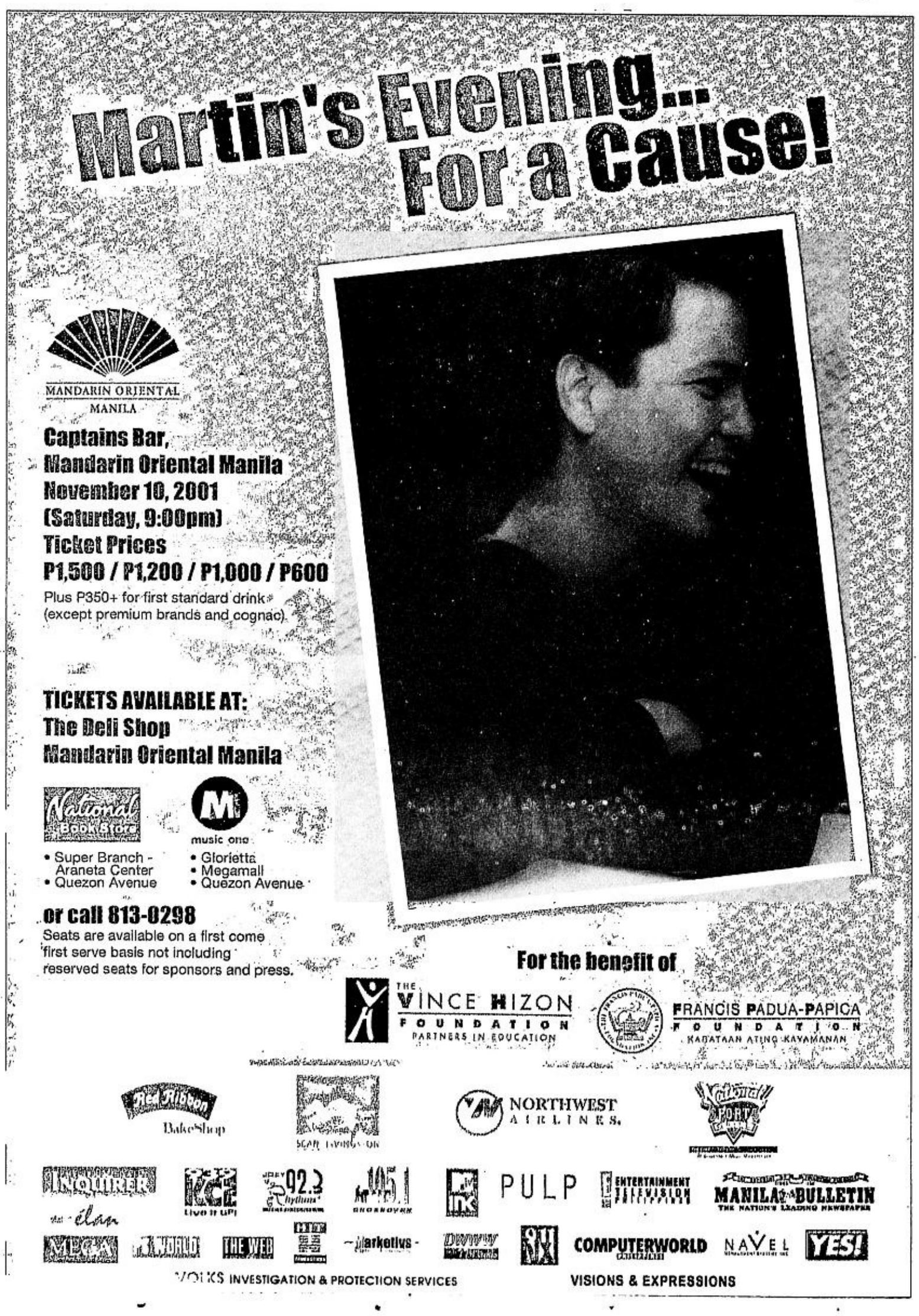
GABRIEL SINGSON, former Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas governor (third from left).

Ty recounted that it was President Macapagal-Arroyo who suggested to Prime Minister Zhu Rongji, in her role as then vice president, that China and the Philippines should establish banks in each other's countries under the reciprocity agreement.

"We hope that the success of this partnership will reflect the enduring cooperation and warm relationship between our two nations," Ty said in closing.

(From left) **MR. AND MRS.** John Ng, INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto and Moon Yeen Singson

GERRY Tee, PSBank director (left), Marlano Nocom and Robert Licup



'Sikad-sikad,' . . . (From page B1)

When the rice mill he was employed in fell into hard times and eventually closed shop, Juanito Bobier of Barangay Panal was shocked.

Finding an alternative as a *sikad-sikad* driver after losing his job, he kicked the pedals from 4 a.m. until 6 p.m., earning an average of P200 daily, an amount way above the average worker's daily wage then.

"I was almost glad I lost my first job and realized I could do better on my own," he said in the Bicol dialect.

Like Bobier, most other "kickers" have no high school diplomas and had previously held jobs as laborers.

Looking back after over 10 years of unvarying routine, Bobier, now 54, remains on the saddle but takes it easy and counts his blessings: a daughter sent through college now working in an office, with two others nearing graduation and; he owns his own *sikad-sikad*.

"But since we have become too many and people cannot simply afford the fare so they walk, my daily take has been reduced to P150 and lesser each time," he said.

At least 8,000 families here are estimated to be fully, or partially, dependent on this trade and the spin-off business it has spawned—making it the biggest trade group in the region.

In fact, welfare officials here are concerned that more and more school-aged children from poor families who have been hardest hit by the worldwide economic slowdown are quitting school altogether and earning a living by driving the *sikad-sikad*.

According to Divina Aytona of the licensing division of the City Treasurer's Office, some 3,000 *sikad-sikad* units are currently registered.

Adding the sizable number of "colorum" vehicles that evade paying the P500 yearly registration fee, the total number of *sikad-sikad* is estimated to be 5,000.

The spin-off services and businesses created at least a score of *sikad-sikad* stops in street corners, or *paradas*.

Each *parada* is a collection of vulcanizing stands, mobile *sari-sari* stores, food stands, barkers and *jueteng* bet collectors.

And there are the *sikad-sikad* manufacturers, welding shops and spare parts stores.

Street gondolas

Compared to the grindingly slow and tent-like *padyak*, or BMX pedal tricycle, the *sikad-sikad* is a swift, high-strung sleek design not unlike a Ferris wheel gondola and a canopy mounted on three full-sized 36-inch bicycle wheels.

It can, with relative ease, weave through busy traffic; climb or barrel down steep inclines and maneuver over a rugged terrain.

As proof of its durability and enduring usefulness, over a thousand of these street gondolas, which some people here proudly compare to its romantic Venetian water-borne cousin, still in operation are 10 years, or older.

The design has not undergone any major basic changes during the past 40 years save for the original convertible canopy, which has been fixed tight.

The old-style rubber and chrome horn gave way to the small wooden coin box mounted on the handle bar, which when flicked by the driver's fingers produces a very unique staccato of *tak-a-tak* sound instantly identifiable with its presence.

But unlike the *kalesa*, a horse-drawn cart, whose usefulness has been reduced as prop for tourist photo ops, or the Hong Kong rickshaw's similar fate, the *sikad-sikad* is neither showing any signs of following suit nor giving a quarter of a chance to its motorized competitors.

Home-based industry

Ignacio Rivero, owner of Nash Welding Shop in Barangay San Carlos here, one of a dozen makers of the handmade *sikad-sikad* said that orders have recently fallen sharply.

"In previous years, I was making up to 40 units a month. Now I'm lucky with 10," Rivero said.

Each unit costs an average of P10,000.

Rivero is by no means a major manufacturer. Instead, his shop, opened only five years ago in 1996, belongs to the relatively smaller makers in town, and already he is finding it hard to find enough customers.

To boost sagging sale, the small makers are into stiff competition under the "*hulog*-boundary" system, an easy installment plan where the customer pays P51 daily for the tricycle until he pays the full price.

"In this way, the driver not only has the chance to make an honest living but he also gets the chance to eventually own his tricycle," he said.

Unlike the P30 daily boundary system, the driver does not have the same chance.

Even then, he admits that he has to practically give chase to drivers who are behind their payments to balance his books.

He admits further that money is simply too hard to come by these days and that there are just too many of them already on the road.

Pokemon . . . (From page B3)

Pokemon games in North America are more than $32 million.

Hillenbrand said he's unfazed by the downturn in overall consumer spending, noting that the store's interactive elements and the exclusive merchandise will help drive excitement.

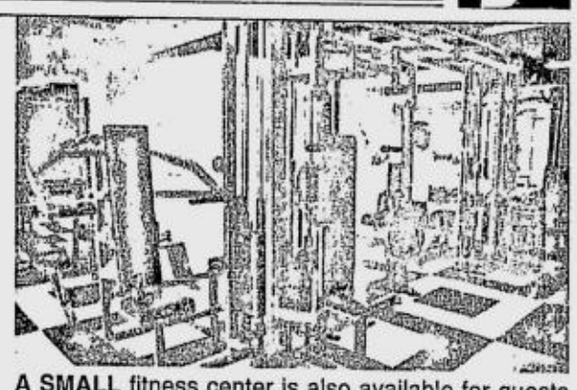
The store will offer a vast array of sound and light shows and life-size robotic Pokemon characters in its windows. It will also have a gaming room, where consumers can try out the latest Pokemon games on both Nintendo's GameCube and Nintendo 64 platforms. The store will also feature an Ultra Pokedex, a giant-sized screen and control pad that enables users to obtain information about all 251 Pokemon characters.

Forty percent of the merchandise will be exclusive in the stores and on its website called Pokemoncenter.com. The offerings include action figures with smart chips and handheld video games like the Pokemon Mini. *AP*

THE HOTEL managed by Genesis Hotels and Resorts goes for the uncluttered, clean look favored by executives.

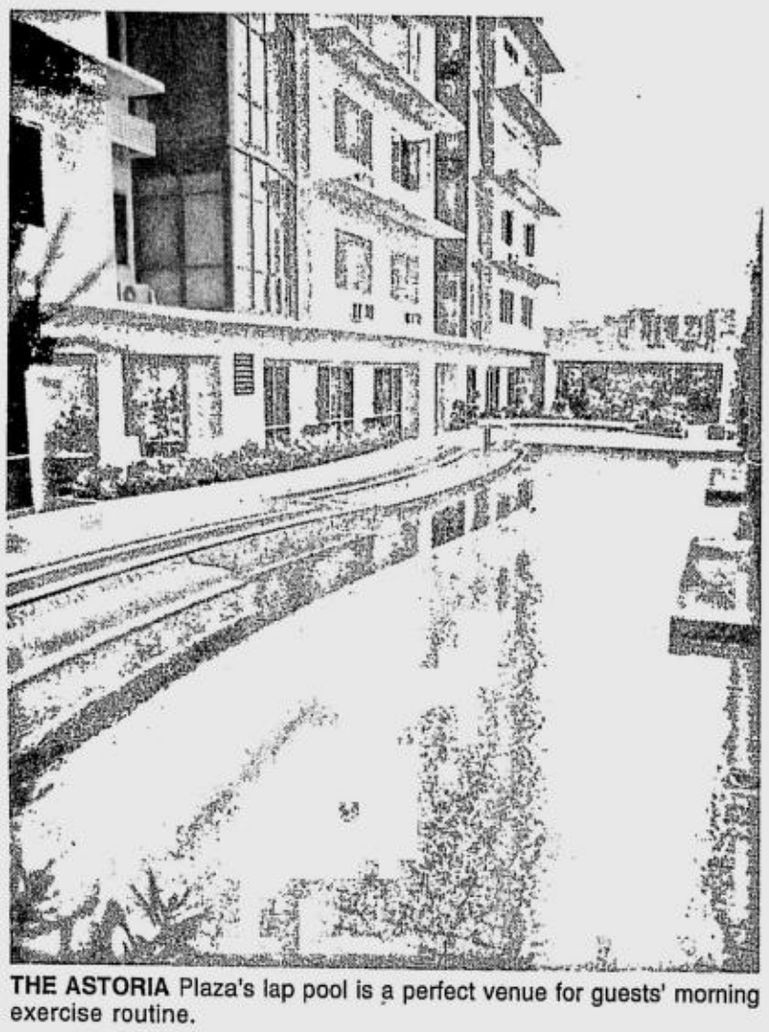
THE NINE meeting and function rooms can accommodate up to 120 persons.

THE 35-STORY serviced apartment complex offers guests with a choice of one-bedroom and two-bedroom suites.



A SMALL fitness center is also available for guests who want to work out their tired muscles.

It's not just another serviced apartment



THE ASTORIA Plaza's lap pool is a perfect venue for guests' morning exercise routine.

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

"ONCE you have seen one, you have not seen them all."

This is the motto of the Genesis Hotels and Resorts, used to refer to its flagship Astoria Plaza Serviced Residential Suites along J. Escriva Drive (formerly Amber Avenue).

There may be many serviced apartments sprouting all over the city, but Genesis claims that Astoria is a cut above the rest.

Genesis president Miguel G. Cerqueda tells the INQUIRER that Astoria Plaza, which opened its doors to the public just in February this year, tries to establish itself as a primary destination for long-staying guests, such as expatriates sent by multinationals to do several weeks' or months' work.

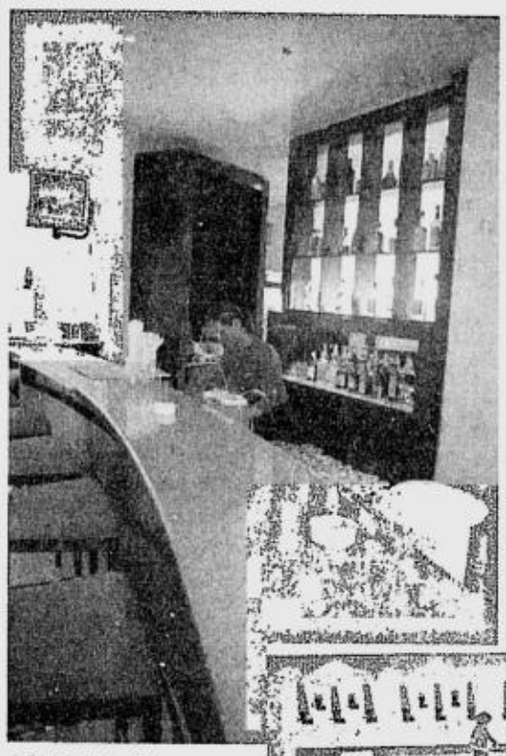
"Instead of renting a house with hidden expenses, many long-staying guests have found it more convenient to go to a serviced apartment where everything is included in the cost. It is a self-contained community," Cerqueda explains.

To answer the need for bigger space, the 35-story hotel offers 41 suites, with the smallest at 58 square meters. Cerqueda says the suite that goes for about P3,000 a night, gives a guest more value for money compared to a 35-square-meter unit offered by the competitors at about the same price.

Astoria Plaza's suites have a spacious living room and dining area with essential kitchen facilities. Other amenities include electronic door lock system, Video Entry Phone, electronic safe, hair dryer, cable television, IDD/NDD facilities with data port and fax machines.

There are also suites built to accommodate handicapped guests.

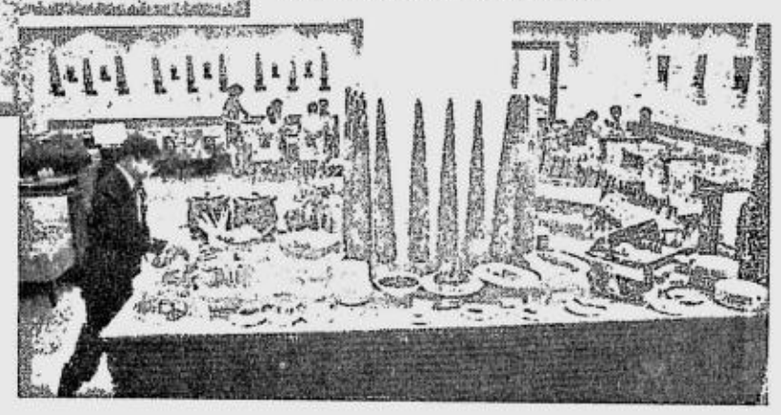
"We want to offer value for money for our guests. I believe that it is truly a jewel because guests get five-star treatment but not at five-star hotel costs," he adds.



ASTORIA Plaza goes for simple but classy design even at the bar.

TRADITIONAL Filipino cuisine is a favorite even among expatriates at Astoria Plaza.

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA



THE CAFÉ Astoria is an all-day dining restaurant that can seat 100 persons.

Unique project in Lipa offers retreat, not escape

BY CORRIE S. NARISMA

THE PROPERTY sector, like any other business in the country and around the world, may be having a hard time now but businessman Mario A. Oreta, president and CEO of Mancom-CBDC, believes it is definitely not down and out.

All it takes to survive and thrive in the property development sector during hard times like these, he says, is a little innovation. Knowing one's market and its specific needs helps a lot too, he adds.

With so much confidence in the business it is in and in the market it believes still exists, Mancom-CBDC, a joint venture between Malaysian group Mancom Berhad and local property developer Constant Builders and Development Corp., embarked on a novel project called Lipa Farm Estates.

It is a 20-hectare managed farm estate project nestled at the foothills of the famous Mt. Malarayat.

Lots are subdivided into at least 1,000 square meters sold at P3,850 per square meter. Japanese architecture-inspired houses are to occupy only 25 percent of each lot with the rest earmarked for the farm or garden. Buyers can choose the type of gardens they want to tend. They can have beds of bright blooms, vegetable and fruit orchards, or an aqua garden.

The buyers can opt to build their own houses but they should conform to the Japanese architecture-inspired models envisioned by the developer. As such, the style chosen by the buyer is subject to Mancom-CBDC's approval. The developer can suggest designs or even build the house in case the buyer wants it.

Horticulturists and agriculturists will be on standby 24 hours a day to make sure that the plants will grow and bear fruit. Residents can ask for their help anytime for free except when extra fertilizers or other seedlings are used.

It is a farm with all the amenities of a class A development.

This project's target market: the moneyed business people who, harassed by the corporate world and the daily grind in the city, want to take a brief respite in a serene, green environment once in a while.

DEVELOPER Mario A. Oreta

"Lipa Farm Estates is the fulfillment of the harassed businessman's dream of retiring in a farm—only this time he can have it even before retirement," Oreta says.

The Mancom-CBDC chief is confident that his project's target market is not adversely affected by the present economic condition.

"The so-called political and economic turmoil did not make our target market poorer, only wiser. Wiser in the sense that they will only put their financial resources in investment vehicles that are, at best, recession proof," he says, adding that Lipa Farm Estates is one blue-chip investment that these people will find difficult to resist.

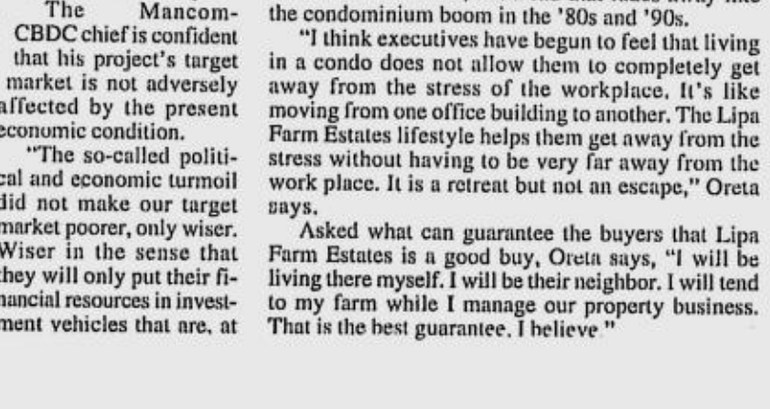
In the Philippines, he said, the value of real estate hardly ever plummets; they just plateau but eventually resume an upward direction when the economy starts improving again.

"A piece of property that is close to Metro Manila and is even closer to one of the best golf courses in Asia is definitely recession-proof," he says.

He says Lipa is a beautiful place with a fantastic climate that approximates that of Tagaytay at certain times of the year. It is close enough to Metro Manila that the farm estates' prospective locators may opt to go home to their farm from work every day.

Oreta says the company chose the Japanese architecture for the farm estates' residences because of its elegant simplicity.

"The Japanese have built harmony and serenity into their architecture and landscape. Their architecture also emphasizes economy in the use of space. We don't want to encourage homes with too large floor areas because we want our residents to have bigger areas for farming or tree-planting."



LIPA Farm Estates is not only home to second business, but also home in itself.

Mancom-CBDC was inspired to go for this type of development by the thought that farming influences a person's views and attitudes toward life, business and other people.

"I believe that when an executive begins to enjoy a life that combines his active work life with farming, a lot of changes will take place in his person. At the end of the day, he will be more efficient and productive. He will become a better person and, therefore, a better executive," he explains.

Oreta says he knows this by heart for it is based on his personal aspiration.

"I was a slave of the corporate world. I personally longed for a green environment where the air is fresh and where there are plants everywhere. I know my friends and peers want the same lifestyle too," he says.

The project proponents hope that Lipa Farm Estates will set a trend, not a fad that fades away like the condominium boom in the '80s and '90s.

"I think executives have begun to feel that living in a condo does not allow them to completely get away from the stress of the workplace. It's like moving from one office building to another. The Lipa Farm Estates lifestyle helps them get away from the stress without having to be very far away from the work place. It is a retreat but not an escape," Oreta says.

Asked what can guarantee the buyers that Lipa Farm Estates is a good buy, Oreta says, "I will be living there myself. I will be their neighbor. I will tend to my farm while I manage our property business. That is the best guarantee, I believe."

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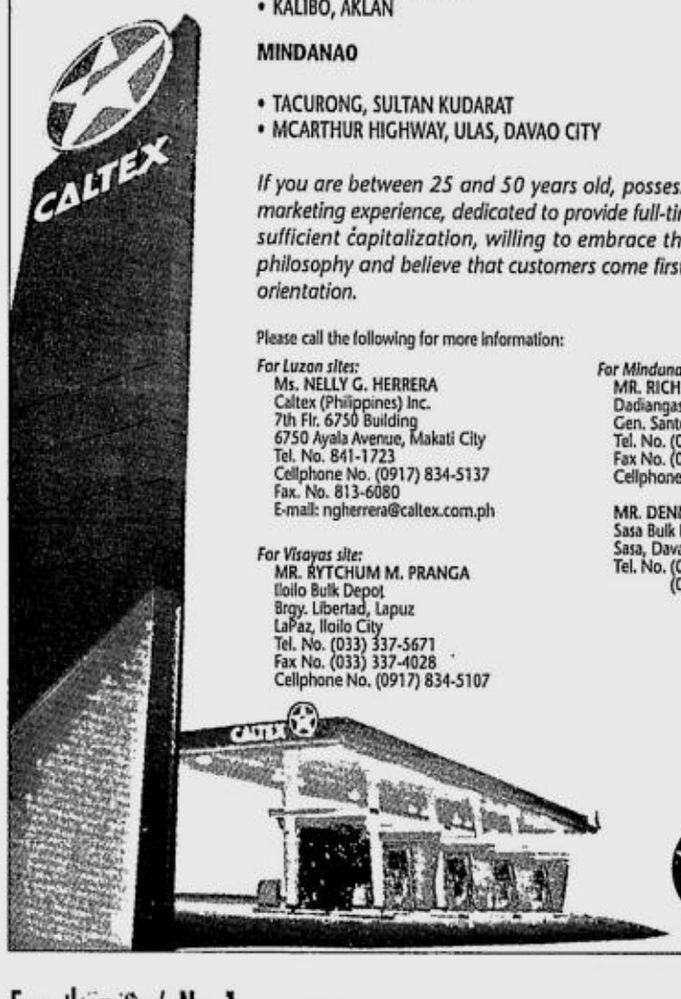

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Interested applicants, please e-mail your Resumé and scanned 2x2 photo to: kisset.aguinaldo@avon.com or visit the Avon Corporate Center, 144 Legazpi corner Herrera Streets, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

We have a passion for excellence. Innovation drives growth. We require individual initiative and promote creativity yet we work as a team. Integrity uplifts us. We value our customer focus and concern for our people. We are a fast growing full-service Commercial Bank inviting young, competent and highly motivated individuals to occupy the following positions in our soon-to-open branches (Baguio, Cabanatuan, Cagayan de Oro, Dagupan, San Fernando/Pampanga, Sta. Rosa/Laguna, Lucena and Zamboanga)

BRANCH MANAGERS (BM)
- With at least five (5) years experience in branch management
- Marketing-oriented: with sales track record and extensive network clients
- Must be aggressive, dynamic, creative and results-oriented
- With excellent negotiation skills

SALES OFFICER (SAO)
- College graduate, preferably Business-related course
- With at least three (3) years banking operations or experience in account solicitation, investment and business development
- With sales track record and extensive network of clients

SERVICE OFFICER (SO)
- College graduate, preferably Accounting or Business-related course
- With at least three (3) years experience in banking operations

SERVICE SUPPORT ASSOCIATE (SSA)
- College graduate, preferably Accounting
- With excellent analytical skills

SALES ASSOCIATE (SAA) / SERVICE ASSOCIATE (SEA)
- College graduate, preferably Business-related course
- Experience in banking operations or marketing an advantage
- With excellent negotiation skills

We expect all candidates to possess above average scholastics record, excellent oral and written communication and human relations skills, and computer proficiency in Word & Excel.

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resume (please indicate position code), transcript of records/certificate of graduation and recent 2x2 colored photo to:

EASTWESTBANK
Building Relationships, Completing Lives.

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
HUMAN RESOURCES GROUP
East West Banking Corporation

20th floor, 6795 Ayala Avenue cor. Herrera St., Makati City
e-mail: ettavera@eastwestbanker.com
website: www.eastwestbanker.com

Only those qualified will be advised to report for interview and exam.

HEADSTART OPEN SYSTEMS CORPORATION
Invites applicants for the following positions:

COMPUTER FIELD ENGINEERS
- Male, ECE or COE graduate
- Not more than 28 years old, single
- Experience in PC/PRINTER repair
- Knowledgeable in DOS, Win NT and other software
- Self-motivated, hardworking
- Willing to undergo training

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
- Female, 20-28 years old, single
- Graduate of Marketing or any business course
- Proficient in oral and written communication
- Preferably computer literate
- Hardworking and with pleasing personality

Please personally submit your resumé, 2x2 picture and other credentials to:

HEADSTART OPEN SYSTEMS CORPORATION
4/F Metrostar Building
1007 Metropolitan Avenue
San Antonio Village,
Makati City (beside Meralco Makati)

SANYO DENKI PHILIPPINES, INC.
Block F-1 Subic Techno Park
Along Argonaut Hi-way, Boton Area,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone
Is in need of

DEPARTMENT MANAGERS
for

PRODUCTION (1): Has 5 years extensive work experience in the production of Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) including but not limited to the assembly of P-board, UPS wire processing, etc. Exposure on maintenance of related equipment is a must. Similarly, should have experience in Production Control Plan based on accepting order and engineering information (Order and Drawing), Progress Control and Adjustment of Delivery Date, Inventory Control for Product, and Forwarding Work (Product Flow Control). Should be knowledgeable on IZUMI production control software.

QUALITY ASSURANCE (1): Has at least 5 years extensive exposure/technical knowledge in the Quality Assurance for UPS products, process control, evaluation of product, dealing with customer claims for damage and purchase and quality control of materials. Must have hands-on experience on various related QA device/ equipment.

PURCHASING (1): Has at least 5 years extensive work experience in purchasing, warehousing, inventory and quality control of incoming materials in an electronics manufacturing company, preferably in UPS production.

PREFERABLY ALL APPLICANTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO READ, WRITE AND SPEAK NIHONGO.

Interested applicants may send their Resumé with 2x2 recent picture and credentials to:

Labor and Employment Center
Bldg. 255, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority
Subic Bay Freeport Zone

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City, 1100 Philippines • Telephone 925-24-01

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites sealed written bids for:

I. One (1) year contract (Jan.-Dec. 2002) for the following:
a. Laundry Services (linens)
b. Supply of Medical Oxygen (tanks only)
c. Aircon Maintenance

Only duly accredited bidders/suppliers will be allowed to participate in the bidding. List of requirements to be submitted:

1. Letter of Intent
2. SEC registration
3. Bus. License
4. List of clients
5. Financial Statement (last 2 yrs.)
6. ITR (last 2 yrs.)
7. Location Map of Office

All interested bidders/suppliers must submit their accreditation documents on or before **Nov. 12, 2001** at Purchasing Division.

The PHC reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder/s if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information and the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

(Sgd.) **ROMEO J. SANTOS, M.D.**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI – Oct 26, 27, 28, Nov. 2, 3 & 4, 2001)

Qualified **Montessori TEACHERS**
for children age 3 to 6 are urgently required.

- Montessori certificate
- Pleasant working environment and excellent teaching resources.
- Attractive salary

Please send your CV within 2 weeks *to:*
weenland@yahoo.com

DOOSOL LANGUAGE SCHOOL

is urgently in need of

ENGLISH TEACHERS

- 20-32 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course (pref. English Major)
- With good communication skills
- With patience and good working attitude

Email your resumé (with contact number and picture) and TOR at jeurolfan777@yahoo.com or macgael@yahoo.com or apply personally on **November 6, 2001**, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM at #12 Moldero Street, BF Homes, Quezon City.

NURSES

Attention:

CGFNS Nurses
With 2 years hospital experience or more
Immigrant Status

FREE REVIEW for TSE / TOEFL
- Plus: Reimbursement of TSE/TOEFL fees
  Free: USA processing / Airfare / housing for 1 month / sign on Bonus upon arrival in the USA
- Guaranteed good hospitals and facilities in the WEST Coast and Mid-West.

Non-CGFNS Nurses
With 1 year hospital experience or more

Good Opportunities in CANADA as Immigrants
FREE review to TSE / TOEFL / IELTS.

CALL RIZZA for registration at 0917-2052198 / 09174514962

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP (492-02-001)

An International organization is soliciting proposals from firms who qualify through experience to provide up to two (2) years of residential maintenance and warehousing services. The Contractor shall provide tools of trade, equipment and furnish direct labor personnel in the performance of required services. Work will be monitored by the international organization. The Contractor will be paid at fixed monthly rates or at fixed rates on an hourly/daily basis as appropriate remuneration for services rendered by qualified personnel.

Contract Services are to begin on or about May 1, 2002 and end April 30, 2004 with options to renew the contract. A direct contract will be awarded.

Detailed information about this solicitation is contained in Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 02-001 which may be obtained starting **November 19, 2001** at USAID, Office of the Regional Procurement, 8F PNB Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

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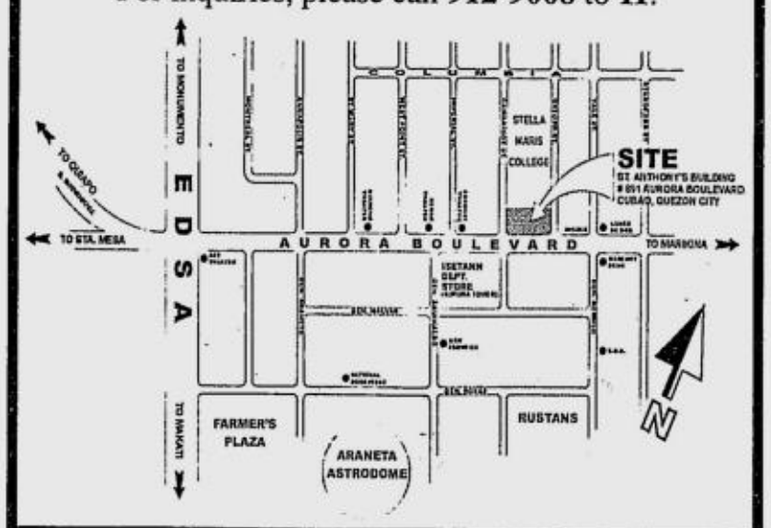

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cagayan
Municipality of Solana
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Rural Infrastructure Components for which this invitation to pre-qualify and to bid is issued.
2. The Municipality of **SOLANA, CAGAYAN**, as implementing partner of the DAR for ARCP, intends to pre-qualify contractors and if pre-qualified, to bid for the construction and completion of:

CONCRETING OF UBONG BARANGAY ROADS (2.460km. FTMR)

Minimum Equipments required

1 - Road Grader	-Owned/Leased	2 - Concrete Mixer (1 bg.)	- Owned
1 - Vib. Compactor	-Owned/Leased	1 - Concrete Screeder	- Owned
1 - Water Truck	-Owned/Leased	1 - Bar Cutter	- Owned

3. Pre-qualification forms (Pre-C) and bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders at the **MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING OFFICE**, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00)** for each set payable to the Municipal Treasurer. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Submission of application for pre-qualification must be received in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman, PBAC-ARCP, Municipality of **Solana, Cagayan** not later than **November 12, 2001**.
5. The submission and opening of bids will be on **December 12, 2001, at the Conference Hall Office of the Mayor.** No bids will be accepted later than **2:00 PM of December 12, 2001.** The bids shall be valid for a period of 120 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a security of **2.5 percent of the Total Bid Price** or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.
6. The PBAC-ARCP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify to the bidder for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **RODRIGO C. DE ASIS**
Chairman, PBAC-ARCP

(PDI--Nov. 2, 3 & 4, 2001)

INVITATION TO BID THRU SEALED BIDDING

- **UNCLAIMED CARGOES** - Furniture, Marine Cable, Cable Wire, MS Plates, Angle Bars, G.I. Pipes
- **OTHER ITEMS** - The list can be secured to the Disposal Committee.

INFORMATION

1) All bids shall be accompanied with cash or cash equivalent in the amount of at least 10% of the bid price as deposit.
2) Sealed bids can be submitted on or before the date of bidding proper which is scheduled on **November 9, 2001** at exactly 10:00 a.m.
3) Balance Payable immediately upon notice.
4) Any winning bidder who does not push through for reasons beyond its control, the deposit will be forfeited in favor of the company.
5) The management reserves the right to reject any or all bids in its discretion for any reason whatsoever.

Disposal Committee
Negros Navigation Co., Inc.
Pier 2, North Harbor, Tondo, Manila, Philippines
Tel. No. 245-5588 local 3108
Look for Mr. Juanito A. Tiu, Jr.

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Terra Building, La Salle Avenue
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Cebu
Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario Street, Cebu City
Tel. No. (032) 232-7618

Dumaguete City
Mr. Raymund Mercado
Hi-Top News Magazine & General Merchandise
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos. (035) 225-5796/225-4364

Mr. Ramon Charles Sy
New Renie's
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos. (035) 225-4320/422-7452
Fax No. (035) 255-1182

Iloilo
Mr. Eduardo Ty
c/o Ms. Marilou Ty
Eddie-Mar News & Magazine Center
Ground Floor, Bombo Radio Building
Mapa Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 337-3120/337-6018

Mr. Jim Feliciano
309 Ledesma Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 508-2530
Cell. No. (0917) 401-9180

Kalibo
Ora. Bease Candelario
Candelario Enterprise
RB Newspapers, Magazine & Song Hits Distribution Agency
Pastrana Street, Kalibo, Aklan
Tel. Nos. (036) 262-4155/268-5200

Roxas City
Ms. Marieta Santos
M. Santos Komiks Magazines & Newspaper Dealer
Door C, MB Building
Fuentes Drive, Roxas City
Tel. Nos. (036) 621-5586/522-6925

Tacloban City
Mr. Neil Montejo
Montejo's Newspaper Supply
246 Avenida Veteranos
Tacloban City
Tel. Nos. (053)325-6743/321-2954

Tagbilaran City
Mr. Ferdinand Mercado
Doña Rosario Village
G. Penallor Street
Tagbilaran City
Tel. No. (038) 411-5007

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REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education through the National Science Teaching Instrumentation Center (NSTIC) is inviting interested parties for the bidding of the Production and Delivery of Video Presentation in VHS Format with the approved budget of One Million Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P1,350,000.00).

All interested suppliers of CAE must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bidding documents starting **November 5, 2001** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Room 112-A Mabini Building, DECS Complex, Pasig City or visit the DECS website at ***http://www.decs.gov.ph***.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **November 13, 2001**, 1:00 p.m. at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, DECS Complex, Pasig City. The submission and opening of bids will be on **November 23, 2001** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DECS-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. PANGAN**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DECS-BAC

(PDI - Nov. 3 & 4, 2001)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education through the National Science Teaching Instrumentation Center (NSTIC) is inviting interested parties for the bidding of the Purchase, Training and Delivery of the Accessories for the Computer Aided Experiment (CAE) with the approved budget of One Million Seven Hundred Thousand Pesos (P1,700,000.00).

All interested video presentation producers must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bidding documents starting **November 5, 2001** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Room 112-A Mabini Building, DECS Complex, Pasig City or visit the DECS website at ***http://www.decs.gov.ph***.

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(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. PANGAN**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DECS-BAC

(PDI - Nov. 3 & 4, 2001)

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OMNI General Merchandise
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Pabayo-Pacana Streets
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. Nos. (08822) 722-530
(088) 856-5253

Grandstar News & Magazines
122 Cruz Taal corner Pabayo Street
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. Nos. (088) 857-2571/857-1612
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E-mail: grandstar@hotmail.com

Cotabato
Marquez News & Magazine Agency
Marquez Building, 51 Sinsuat Avenue
Cotabato City
Tel. Nos. (064) 421-3264/421-8611/
(064) 229-7089 (Lotlot - Secretary)

Davao City
Dabaw Periodicals, Inc.
Santos Building, Gov. Duterte Street
Davao City (fronting Galleria Hotel)
Tel. Nos. (082) 226-4406/221-3379/
221-3424/226-2931

Babasahin ATBP.
Lower Level, Gaisano Mall
Bajada, Davao City
Ground Floor, Victoria Plaza
Bajada, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 221-3927/227-4410/300-2920

General Santos
Mr. Ramon Dimalanta
GSC Newscenter, Dimalanta Building
35 Pioneer Avenue, General Santos City
Tel. Nos. (083) 301-8731/301-6244

Pagadian City
Mr. Eduardo Villar Clavero
Edmar News - Advertising Agency
Bonifacio Street, Pagadian City
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Zamboanga
Mr. James Hao
Marlen's Variety Store
86-88 Sevilla Street, Zamboanga City
Tel. Nos. (062) 991-4294/991-0973

Mr. Ruben Bautista
c/o Norie Bautista
Christian Vincent Newsstand
P. Brilantes Street corner Campaner Street
Zamboanga City
Tel. Nos. (062) 991-2965/990-4016

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OBITUARIES

Dr. CARLOS GUEVARA CATOLICO, JR.

of Mandaluyong City
(June 27, 1960 - November 3, 2001)

Peacefully joined our Lord and his late father ***Carlos Kanapi Catolico, Sr.*** *on November 3, 2001 at the age of 41.*

Prayer for the eternal repose of his soul are requested by his loving mother **Naty Guevara Catolico, Cecilia & Renato Ciubal, Corazon Catolico & Edwin Silla** (USA); nephew **Edric**; other relatives and friends.

His remains lie in state at Christ the King Chapel, Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

Cremation will be at 4:00 p.m. today, November 4, 2001 after the 10:00 a.m. Funeral Mass.

Florenda Balneg Azada

(Beloved wife of the late
ATTY. BENITO RESURRECCION ALCOS AZADA)

Peacefully joined her Creator on October 29, 2001 at the age of 91.

Her loving children **Walde, Elda, Rex** (†), and **Rey**; children-in-law **Pat, Maribelle**, and **Marilou**; grandchildren **Patricia** and **Richard, Caroline** and **Simon, Kathryn, Benjamin** and **Armida, Rowena**, and **Richard**; great granddaughter **Maia**; brother **Resurreccion** and sister **Asuncion**; nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request your prayers for her eternal repose.

Her remains lie in state at their residence at 278 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, November 7, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina. Details will be announced later.

Nina Garau Y Reyes

Wife of the late **Jose Garau Y Mut**

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 12, 2000 at the age of 84.

Her bereaved children **Alfonso, Miguel & Adora**; daughters-in-law and son-in-law, grandchildren, great grandson, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 10, 2001 at Santuario del Sto. Cristo Church (San Juan, M.M.) after the 10:30 a.m. Holy Mass celebrated by Sto. Cristo Parish Priest Fr. Jesus Prol, O.P.

GLORIA CORAZON (Tetet) A. GARCIA

of Amparo Novaville Subdivision, Novaliches, Quezon City

Peacefully joined her Creator on October 31, 2001 at the age of 24.

Her loving parents **Lito** and **Cora**; brothers **Gabriel Angelo & Gil Florentino**; sister **Ma. Roxanne** & sister-in-law **Shiela**; her grandparents, uncles, aunties, cousins and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Holy Family Chapel in Amparo Novaville Subdivision, Novaliches, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, November 6, 2001 at the Serenity Memorial Park, Caloocan City after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Holy Family Chapel.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

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"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

Atty. NAPOLEON M. GAMO

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 31, 2001 at the age of 69.

His bereaved wife **Alice**; children and their spouses **Noel** and **Abby**, **Nimia**, **Noemi** and **Toots**, **Norenz** and **Eileen**, **Nerick** and **Trina**; grandchildren **Eena**, **RR**, **Trina**, **Paulina**, **Angela**, **Mico**, **Nicole**, **Coby**, **Joaqui**, **Nancy** and **Nadine**; and all relatives and friends remember him with love and request prayers for his repose.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Necrological service will be on Monday, November 5, 2001 at the U.P. Chapel Quezon City at 7:30 p.m.

"The time is here for me to leave this life. I have done my best in the race, I have run the full distance, I have kept the faith."

(2 Timothy 4:6-7)

Dr. Milagros "Bong" B. Eraña

Was reunited with her Creator on November 2, 2001.

Her best friend **GINA**; sister-in-law **AMADA L. ERAÑA** and family, nieces and nephews, and other friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Ligouri Church, Chapel IV, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Cremation will be on Monday, November 5, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park Crematorium after the 1:00 p.m. Requiem Mass at Magallanes Chapel IV.

ROGELIO M. LAFORTEZA

Died in the Grace of our Lord on October 30, 2001 at the age of 64.

He is survived by his loving wife **Elisea**; his children **Minerva**, **Carina**, **Geraldine** and **Alexander**, **Myra** and **Virgilio Jr.**, **Caroline**, **Grace**, **Agnes**, and **Aileen**; and grandchildren **Matthew Carl**, **Mark Alexander**, **John Luke**, **Paul James** and **Jessica Marie**.

They request the reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Divine Savior Parish Church, North Fairview, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 4, 2001 at the Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

ASUNCION (CION) LERMA SONCUYA

*Wife of the late **Angel T. Soncuya** peacefully joined her Creator on November 2, 2001 at the age of 90 after receiving the Last Sacrament.*

Her children **Mely** & **Emil**, **Vickie** & **Kaiku**, **Louey** & **Steve**; grandchildren **Ana**, **Amanda**, **Regine** and **Andrew**; and her sisters and brothers-in-law **Tinding** & **Alo** (†), and **Cely** & **Marcial**, request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Don Bosco Church, Makati City.

Interment details will be announced later.

LORETO "TITA LURING" D. LEONEN

of Minalin, Pampanga and Parañaque City

Died in the Grace of our Lord on November 1, 2001

Her bereaved husband **Primer**; children **Eleanor**, **Caroline** and **Leogardo**; brothers and sisters, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the kind readers to pray for her eternal rest.

Her body lies in state at the Fr. Willmann Suite, Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Parañaque City.

Funeral Mass will be held at 1:00 PM on Saturday, November 10, 2001 at the Mary Queen of Apostles Parish, San Antonio Valley 6, San Isidro, Sucat, Parañaque City. Interment will immediately follow at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

In loving memory of the First Death Anniversary of our beloved

FORTUNATO CASTILLO BORLONGAN

UST Faculty of Philosophy and Letters 1955

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered today at 7:00 a.m. at the following churches: San Felipe Neri, Edsa Shrine, Shrine of the Divine Mercy (Mandaluyong), Sacred Heart (Sta. Mesa), Santisimo Rosario (UST Campus), Espiritu Santo St. Ltd. (M... Mary Mother of Ood, Mary Cause of Our Joy (Muntinlupa), Our Lady of Guadalupe (Makati)

His loving wife **FRANCISCA**, children **LEANDRO** and **EUGENE**, **LUIS LINO**, **LILIA** and **AQUILINO ALVAREZ JR.**, **LOURDES**; and grandchildren **LEANDRO MIGUEL**, **LUIGI ANGELO** and **MA. AILIL** wish to thank all those who continue to offer their prayers and their good works for his eternal rest.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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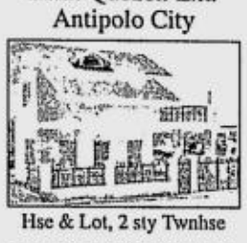

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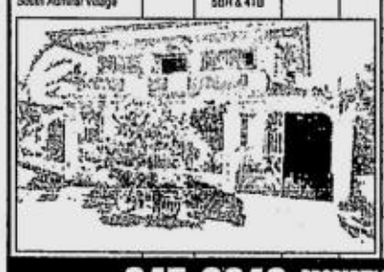
BULACAN				
Interior Rd., Brgy Minuyan Norzagaray	1000	warehouse building	216	1.7M
1966 La Trinidad Subd. Lolomboy, Bocaue	230	2-storey with 3BR & 2TB	144	1.150M
177 Tangerine St. Felicisima Village Brgy Mojon & Bulihan Malolos	240	1-storey with 3BR & 1TB	63	800T
Lot 23/24 Rd Lot 35 Golden Village, Tetang Guguinto	400	16 units of apartment	548	3.5M
CALOOCAN CITY				
No 34 Magsaysay St. Del Rey Subd., Bossa	374	2-storey single detached with 6BR & 4TB	414	4.6M
Lot 10 & 17, Sta. Maria St. Guadanovilla Subd Tala	600	2-storey with 5BR & 4TB plus servants quarter	620	6M
Lot 10 Blk. 4 Easter Lily St. BF Homes Phase 3 Deposio	275	2-storey with 5BR & 3TB	290	2.6M
Lot 12 & 13, Molave St. Silanganan Subd Bo Llano	480	2-storey with 4BR & 3TB	185	2.1M
36 Massabielle St. Grezcpark	150	2-storey house	258	2.250M
Rivera Compound Bayanihan St., Bossa	145	3-storey with 5BR & 6TB	382	1.8M
MUNTINLUPA CITY				
Unit 423-C Arcadia del Grande Townhomes Carlos Gallaria	60	2-storey with 4BR & 3TB	114	1.2M
Unit 423-F Gallaria del Grande Townhomes Cupang	60	2-storey with 3BR & 2TB	111	1.050M
PARANAQUE CITY				
No 608 Armela Comp. Km 17 Int. of West Service Rd South Super Highway	3585.55	11 parcels of land (with 5 units of warehouse & plant site)		23.2M
Unit 315-E Abbey St. Goodwill Subd III Bo. San Dionisio	111	townhouse unit		1.57M
17 Nuestra Señora de Soledad San Antonio Valley 9	284	a bungalow with 5BR & 2TB and 2-storey with 5BR & 3TB	421	2.4M
604 Pacific Coast Plaza Coastal Road		condo unit with 2BR & 2TB	107	6M
1401 Pacific Coast Plaza Coastal Road		condo unit with 2BR & 2TB	108	7M
No 3 E Aguinaldo St. South Admiral Village	375	2-storey with 5BR & 4TB	341	6.5M



Address	Lot Area	Improvements	Flr. Area	Price
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Lot 9 Blk. 25, No. 14 Negros St., Marina Subd.	659	2-storey house with 5BR & 5TB	498	15M
PASAY CITY				
115 E. Santos cor. A. Luna St., Bambang	127	3-storey comi building	245	3.6M
Lot 11 Blk. 1 Lincoln Bend St. Parkwoods Green Subd. Phase 1-A, Maybunga	371	2-storey with 6BR & 3TB	376	5.5M
20th Floor Strata 2000 Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center Unit A Unit D		office unit (parking slot/ 600T)	250 265	8M 8.40M
QUEZON CITY				
Unit 4, 5th Flr New San Jose Bldg. No 119 Sct. Fernandez St.		condo with 1BR & 1TB	43.10	1.1M
35 Front cor. Grand St. Filinvest Homes II	378	2-storey with 4BR & 4TB	268	3.5M
Unit 412 Century Imperial Palace Timog Ave cor. T. Morato St.		condo with 2BR & 1TB	56.39	2.1M
57-B Gumamela St. Roxas District	31.05	2-storey apt with 2BR & 1TB	56.93	550T
Unit J-2B Potential Townhouse, 15th Ave. Cubao	111	2-storey townhouse with 4BR & 4TB	186	4.6M
25 Antonette St. Parkway Village M H Del Pilar St., Kalingin	360	3-storey resdV comi building	600	7.5M
Lot 4-B Doña Juliana St. Doña Carmen Subd.	60	townhouse with 3BR & 3TB	110	1.6M
No 60 Juan St. Hayaville Subd Bahay Toro	494	2-storey with 6BR & 4TB	460.02	10M
SAN JUAN				
No 463 Don Ejercito St Crystal Homes		3-storey townhomes with 2BR & 3TB individual parking		
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Unit 6	34.5		105.52	3.1M
Unit 7	34.5		105.52	3.1M
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Unit 10	35		107.64	3.2M
Unit 11	45		123.58	3.7M
Unit 12	45		123.58	3.7M
Unit 23 PA Eisenhower Condominium Eisenhower St.		condo unit with 3BR & 4TB, servants qtr with TB, 2 parking slots	299.55	15M
Unit 26 PA Eisenhower Condominium Eisenhower St.		condo unit with 3BR & 4TB, servants qtr with TB, 2 parking slots	299.55	15M
Unit 19 E One Beverly Place, Annapolis St. Greenhills		condo unit with 3BR & 2TB, with parking slot (1)	166	7.4M
SAN PEDRO, LAGUNA				
203 Gladiola St. Camella Homes South	150	2-storey with 6BR & 2TB	174	1.7M

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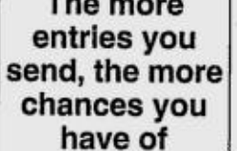

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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LOURDES M. CARINO has been extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc 63 Page13 Book1 Series 2001 of Not Pub Ma Julieta C Santos of Q.C. (PDI-10/28, 11/4&11,2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that S.B.Y.C. Stock Cert. #000978 under the name of Barry Bailey was lost. If no contest is received, new certificate will be issued (PDI-Nov. 4, 11 & 18, 2001)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, Thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your perpetual glory. Amen
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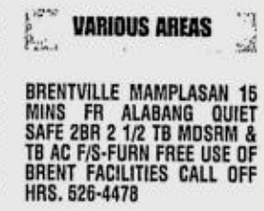
PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

THANK YOU SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY



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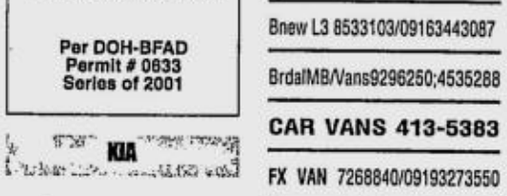

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2001

SundayBIZ

Retail analyst sleuths for trends at mall

GARDEN CITY, New York—These jeans have everything.

Todd Slater, who analyzes retail chains for brokerage firm Lazard LLC, stops to examine them at the Express store on a stroll through the Roosevelt Mall in Garden City, New York.

With a stripe of rhinestones down the side, frayed edges, a new "whisker wash" and, of course, no waistband, they are what Todd Slater calls "kitchen sink" jeans, because they have all the hot trends in denim.

Yet even at $200, and even in the depressed aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks, they are selling briskly, providing a solid clue for the health of retailing.

"If the item is right, they'll buy it," Slater said. Only one pair of the pricey jeans was left on the shelf at the Limited Inc.'s Express outlet.

Such forays into the marketplace are becoming increasingly important for analysts like Slater who work at Wall Street firms, especially since regulators pushed through changes in the rules for disclosing financial data. With access to the executive suites now limited, it's the connection to Main Street that matters.

Slater, a former senior executive at Macy's, sleuths for trends at shopping malls every week, hunting for the next $200 pair of jeans that will sell like hot cakes, for a report for Wall Street clients he calls "Scenes from the Mall."

This week, the lesson for sellers of specialty apparel, who have seen consumer confidence plunge since Sept. 11, is that they can generate sales if they offer trendy clothes that people really want, he said.

But despite the apparent demand for festooned jeans, stores were chock full of markdowns, especially in department stores such as Macy's, owned by Federated Department Stores Inc.

In Macy's junior department, a sign on a rack of clothing, already marked down 50 percent, said another 70 percent would be taken off at the cash register, bringing the item price well below Macy's breakeven point.

"These are the heaviest (markdowns) I've ever seen in my lifetime," Slater said.

At the Gap Inc. store, prices on fall merchandise have been slashed as well. Fall sweaters, normally priced at $44, were on sale for $16.99, less than half the original price.

"You can't be making money when you've got all these markdowns," Slater said.

Slater recently lowered his investment rating for Gap to "sell," based, in part, on the company's new line of ski sweaters, which he characterized as going downhill.

Earlier this month, Gap said it expects to post a third-quarter operating loss, hurt by fashion misses, waning consumer confidence and weak sales.

Slater focused on chains like Gap, Express and deLia's Inc., which sell to female shoppers around the ages of 15 to 25. Those consumers, he said, are going to spend, no matter how sluggish the economy becomes.

His job, as he sees it, is more than just crunching numbers from a company's profit and loss statement or balance sheet, and his mall visits give him an edge over other analysts.

Slater makes weekly trips to the mall, an increasingly important part of his job because of new financial disclosure regulation that bans companies from giving financial information to select analysts, as they had in the past.

"These trips are so much more important because of Reg FD (Regulation Financial Disclosure)," said Alan Aaron, a buy-side analyst for J. Goldman & Co., who accompanied Slater to the mall. ***Reuters***

Near-death experience gives life to Metro's 'columbarium'

BY RAUL C. DANCEL

CALL it "divine economics." The project nearly never got off the ground; well, it was a zany idea to begin with. It involved building a structure that would house a six-story cemetery inside one of Metro Manila's fast-rising business districts.

It was being written off as a waste of precious real estate until one of the men behind it, Rafael Dizon Jr., nearly lost his life, and not all the money in the world could save him. What bailed him out was a prayer.

Dizon had been a powerful player in the country's port industry as head of Asian Terminals Inc., but on one particular evening, for 15 minutes, he was helpless, his life in the hands of people he hardly knew in a land not his own.

He had just gone through an operation in a hospital in the United States to remove a tumor from his colon and was already recovering in his home when disaster struck.

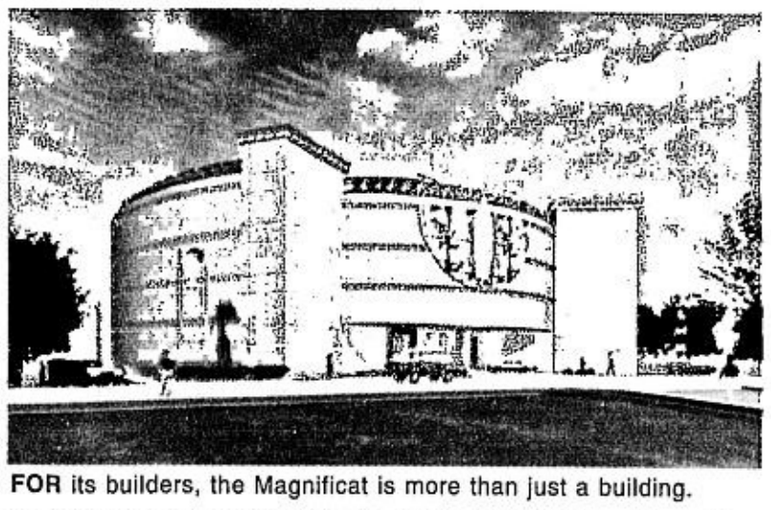
Complications suddenly set in, and he had to be rushed back to the hospital where, for 15 minutes, he was pronounced clinically dead.

During that brief period, he remembered being alone, water all around him. He was drowning, and there was no way he could pay his way out of it. There were no lifeguards, no boats, nothing. It was just him and a vast expanse of water.

All he could do was pray, and the prayer that came to his mind was "Hail Mary, full of grace/The Lord is with you..." Somehow, it worked. He found his way out, and when he woke up, he was already in a hospital bed and with a new lease on life. Then he remembered something he was supposed to have done a long time ago.

A little miracle

In 1999, Dizon and his company, 7RD Realty Inc., were invited to join a project to build a "columbarium"—a structure of vaults lined with recesses for cinerary remains—on a property he owned in Fort Bonifacio, a former military base that was then being developed as an alternative to the Makati and Ortigas central business districts.



FOR its builders, the Magnificat is more than just a building.

After recovering and returning from the United States, Dizon's 7RD Realty hooked up with Ross System International Inc. and set out to again work on a project he had all but given up for dead.

This time, he had a mission—and it was not about making money. He took out his original idea of building a columbarium and worked on meshing it with his new plan to build a church that would, of course, be devoted to the Virgin Mary.

After consulting with Bishop Crisostomo Yalung, moderator curae of the Archdiocese of Manila, he came up with the "Magnificat."

Mary's song of praise

The P600-million Magnificat fuses a church that can seat a thousand with a columbarium that can house 4,000 vaults. But for its builders, it is more than just a building.

"It is Mary's song of praise, a way of thanking Mary for interceding," Japa Gavino, Dizon's son-in-law, tells the INQUIRER. "If we are making half as a resting place for the soul, then it's good to have Mary at the center."

Construction of the Magnificat began on Oct. 15 this year. In a year or two, 7RD Realty and Ross System are hoping to complete a structure that will offer a completely new perspective about passing on and remembering the dead.

When completed, the Magnificat will provide a closer, more subdued and, therefore, much more personal environment—so unlike the vast grounds and lush greeneries of a memorial park that seems more conducive to having a picnic and a party than praying and talking to a lost loved one, or the crowded, humid and marketplace atmosphere of a public cemetery.

It is being built to comfortably seat a thousand and is being fitted with the latest audiovisual trimmings, a 35-bell Carillon imported from Belgium and an "Eternal Flame," a torch that will be lit 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Forming the bulk of the Magnificat, however, are its vaults.

The vaults are safety deposit boxes arranged in columns, with six or seven vaults to a column. Several columns form a wall and walls arranged in concentric patterns make up a level.

One unique feature of the Magnificat will be its library of video compact discs that will contain digitized images of people who have passed on. An audio-visual room is being built where these VCDs can be played, so that the dearly departed will have a presence associated with how they lived, not as ash stashed in an urn or a pile of bones inside a metal box.

Shift in psyche

Gavino says apart from being a tribute to the Virgin Mother, the Magnificat is also a response to a shift in the local populace's attitude about burying the dead, particularly about cremation.

The Catholic Church has accepted cremation as an inexpensive and ecological way of disposing a body. Since this change in doctrine, more and more Filipinos are now turning to cremation as an alternative to laying their dead to rest.

In 1992, there were only two crematoriums in the country. Now, there are 18.

"We can really see the shift in psyche," says Gavino.

Attending the wake of a person who has been cremated is different from one where people can see the body of the deceased, he points out.

"When you see the body, the first questions you ask are: How did he die? Was it painful? These are questions that tie the person to his or her physical state," explains Gavino.

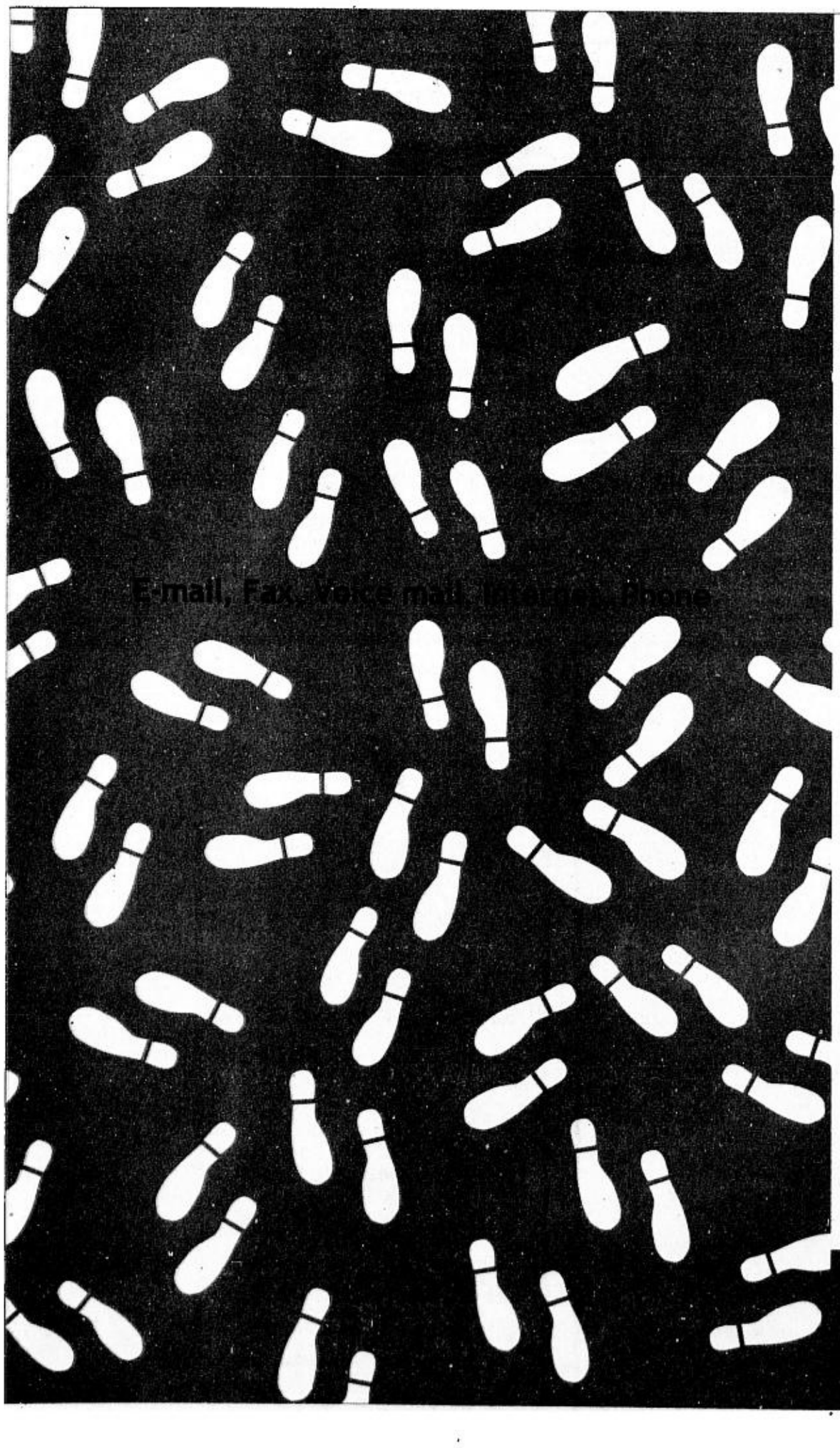
Cheaper alternative

Cremation is cheaper than holding a wake and maintaining plots in a cemetery or memorial park. It costs about P125,000 to maintain a lot housing two bodies in one of Metro Manila's upscale memorial parks.

In a columbarium, the cost goes down to P15,000 per body, considering each vault can house four urns.

Gavino admits that he is in an unusual line of business. After all, he is making money out of the dead. It's a morbid job, he admits, but somebody has to do it.

"Somehow, somewhere, people die, and someone has to take care of them professionally," he says.



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SundayLIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

Nagwawalang kalawang!
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Recommended by: Bavandera Co. Laundromat

ARTIFICIAL plants and papier maché balls enliven a corner of Santos' house.

Little touches give that Christmas feel

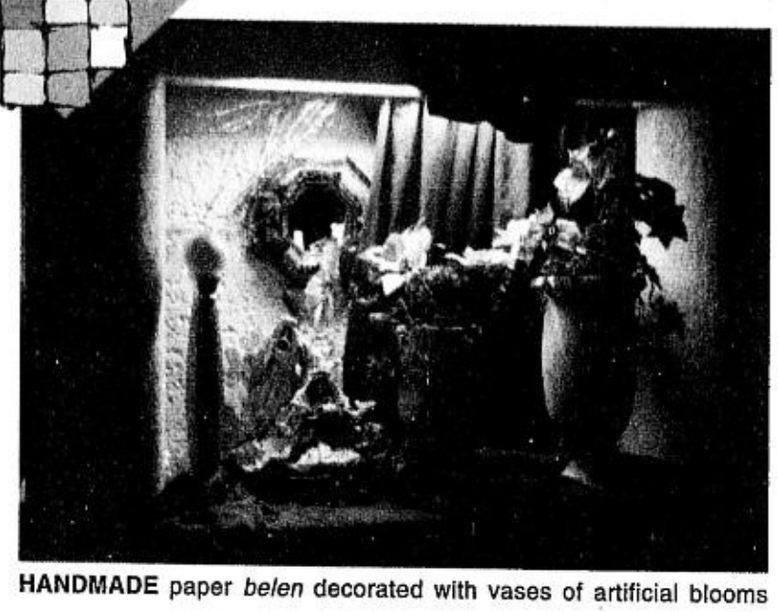
BY ROWENA C. BURGOS
PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

BAGAY, a group of friends who are into interior designing, maintains an understated approach to holiday decorating. Their mantra: Use the things you have around the house.

You can always find a way to get that festive look for Christmas, says architect Vi Santos, one of Bagay's members. Try dried flowers on wood

LITTLE/ p.C2

Create your own holiday look by melding fresh style with the comfort of tradition



HANDMADE paper *belen* decorated with vases of artificial blooms

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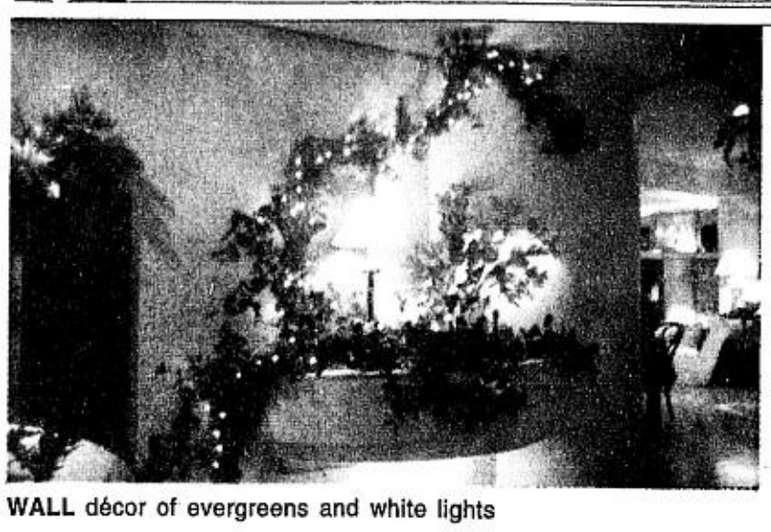

WALL décor of evergreens and white lights

DRIED flowers on wood

CHRISTMAS tree with gold ornaments and white lights

Little touches give that Christmas feel

(From page C1)

with accents of gold, or adorn an Indonesian miniature window with dyed and silkscreened abaca. Have a fountain on terra cotta with natural plants and stones or a platter embellished with red berries.

Such simple touches give an old-fashioned Christmas look to Santos' house in Makati and enhance the wooden flooring and reproduction furnishings. Simplicity is the hallmark of the holidays in this home. She uses a lot of greens, natural and artificial. "One does not need a lot of clutter," she says.

But things are still dressed up for the special occasion. With the help of fellow Bagay member Joel Belmonte, Santos rekindles the magic of Christmas mornings past by decorating the family tree with gold ornaments and white lights. Bits of holly and pine, tucked here and there, add a hint of seasonal color and scent. Framed evergreens at the front door greet visitors. The house looks as if it just might belong to Santa himself.

ZEN-INSPIRED holiday design

During Advent, many of Santos' treasured pieces become part of the overall yuletide decorating scheme. For her and Belmonte, Christmas is a time of invention and innovation, a time to create a wonderful table setting or an unexpected decoration for a door. The two try to keep things fresh and exciting. They said decorations must be different every year. Putting the tree in the same place and using the same ornaments every year is not fun—it's repetition.

"There should be a contrast between the design and the surroundings of one's house. The design should exude class and the décor must be appropriate to each room. There are people who tend to overdecorate their houses that they look like stores. One does not have to take everything out of the house. Just choose the décor that will highlight the surroundings. Otherwise, it would look impersonal," Santos says.

But how will one know if enough is enough? "That you have to see once you've put the decorations. There are no hard and fast rules. But you should opt for less than more."

The color for this year is fuchsia, which, Santos says, looks tacky. She prefers the basic hues of silver, gold, green and red.

Country style classics

Restrained, natural Christmas decorations look quite appropriate in Santos' living room. Much of the appeal of the holiday embellishments lies in their casual, even childlike quality.

Something as simple as papier maché balls provide a visual impact for holiday guests. Different sizes of terra cotta overflow with greenery. And since we're celebrating the birthday of Jesus, a *belen* made of handmade paper is prominently displayed at the entrance of the house.

"These are simple accents from easy-to-find materials. They're suitable to many types of houses and offices. They're clean and contemporary," Santos says.

Even those who cannot afford to hire an interior designer can still give their homes the holiday touch, according to Santos. "Choose a motif or color scheme, you won't go wrong. Avoid putting too many things together. But stick to the basics."

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer. com.ph

A DOOR framed in greens

PLATTER with red berries

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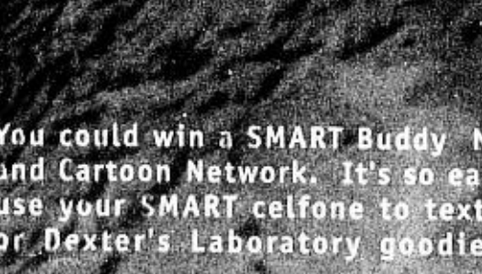

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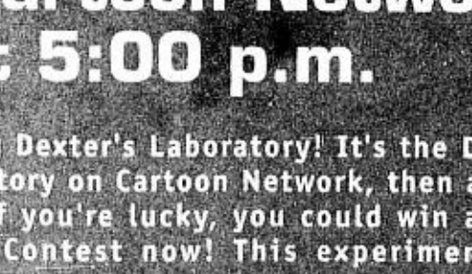

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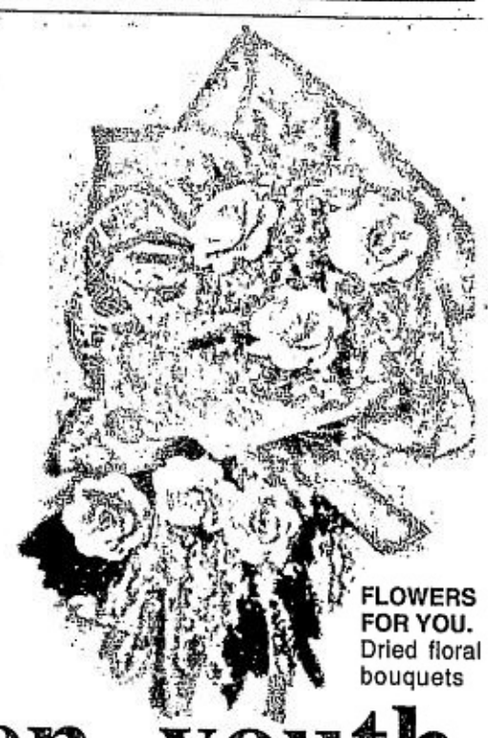
EDWIN and his friends from UHF show off their work.

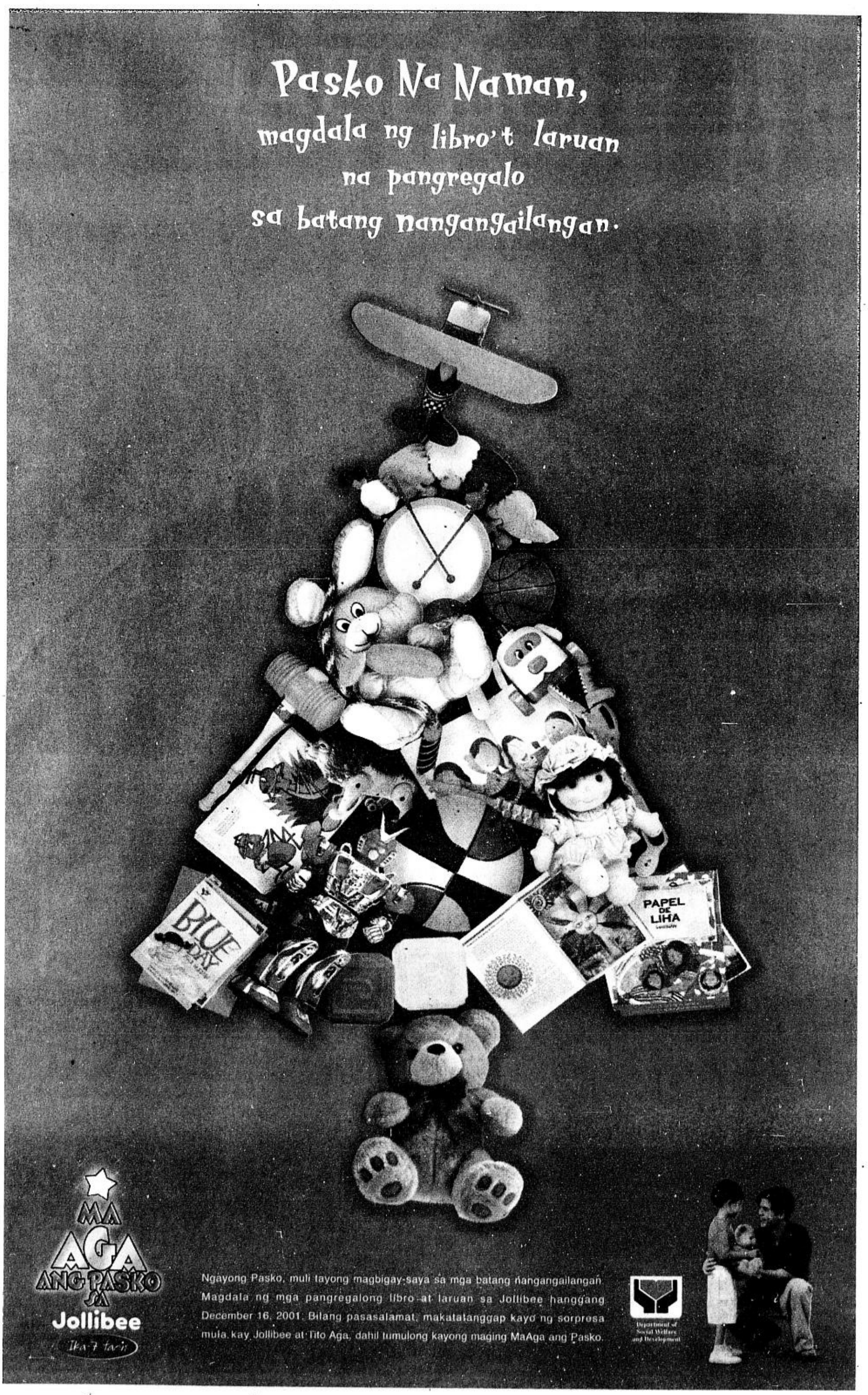
CRAFTED WITH LOVE. *Abaca* bags with floral designs made from handmade paper

FANS made from special paper by the children of UHF



FLOWERS FOR YOU. Dried floral bouquets

First step that promises brighter future for women, youth



BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA
PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

ALING Lita is a young, dark-skinned mother of five who sells cigarettes in the area known as Crossing, where Edsa and Shaw Boulevard intersect. Recently widowed, she struggles to make ends meet and provide food and shelter for her young children.

For the last two months, in addition to selling cigarettes and candies, Aling Lita has been making quilts. She sews furiously into the night making an average of five quilts a week. "*Malaking tulong sa pambili ng pagkain sa araw-araw at pambayad na rin ng kuryente*," the reed-thin and unassuming woman says.

Edwin, 12, although somewhat small for his age, is bubbly and a bit rambunctious. By day, he watches cars that park near SM Megamall and Shangri-La Plaza. In the afternoons, he takes a breather in a shelter set up by the Unang Hakbang Foundation (UHF) at the side of St. Francis Church in Mandaluyong City.

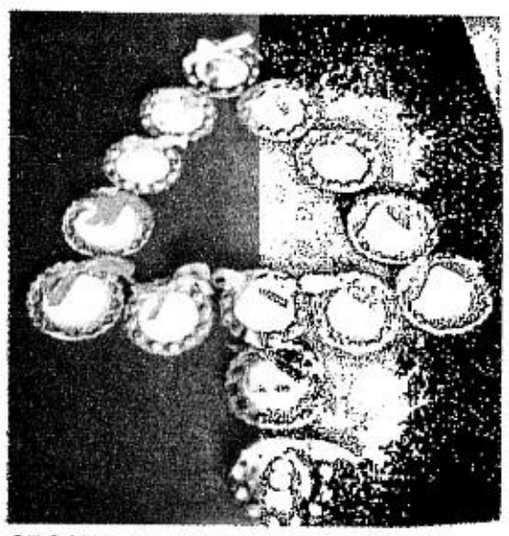
At the shelter, Edwin learns basics of the 3Rs from a teacher-volunteer for the foundation. He also takes art lessons from another volunteer art teacher. Through his works, he has been able to save close to a thousand pesos—more than what he earns in a year watching cars. He hopes to use his savings to pursue a higher education someday.

Aling Lita and Edwin are only two of the beneficiaries of UHF's livelihood projects. The foundation's main thrust is to help street children and women and children from urban poor communities by creating sanctuaries for them and promoting programs that develop the body, mind and spirit. In March, after PDI Lifestyle featured a story on the beginnings of the foundation, instructors volunteered their time and talent to the organization.

Finding use for waste

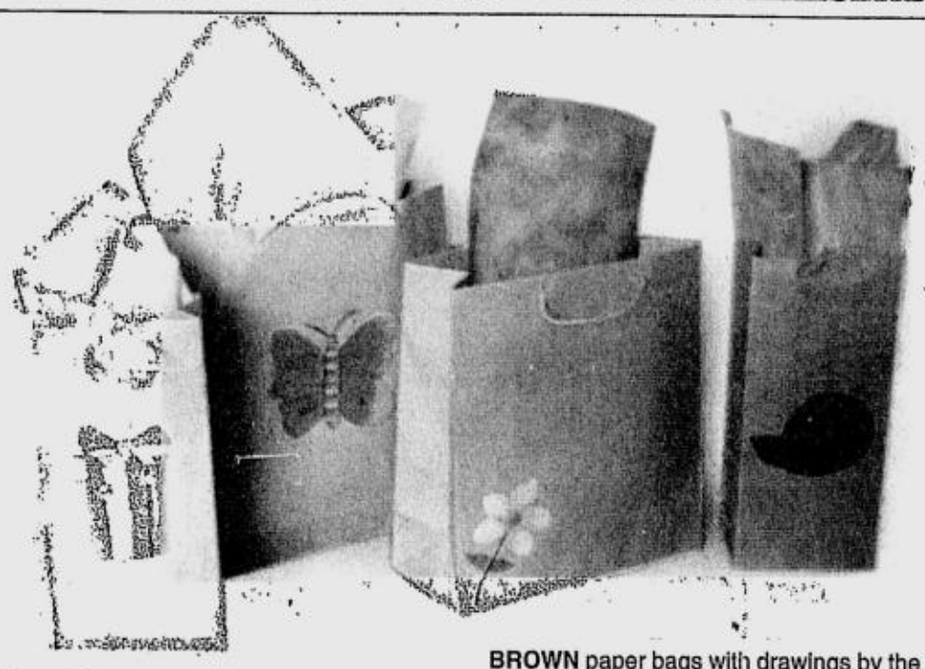
One of these volunteer-teachers is Minotte Rodrigo Cuenca, who teaches the rudiments of quilting to a group of mothers from the Welfareville area in Mandaluyong. Cuenca has a small garment business that yields cotton scraps by the sacks, which were just being burnt.

"I took a look at the pastel-colored scraps I had and saw a pattern for a baby blanket in a quilting book that used scraps. I put together the pieces by hand and I was quite pleased to save all those scraps of cloth. Later on, I was more

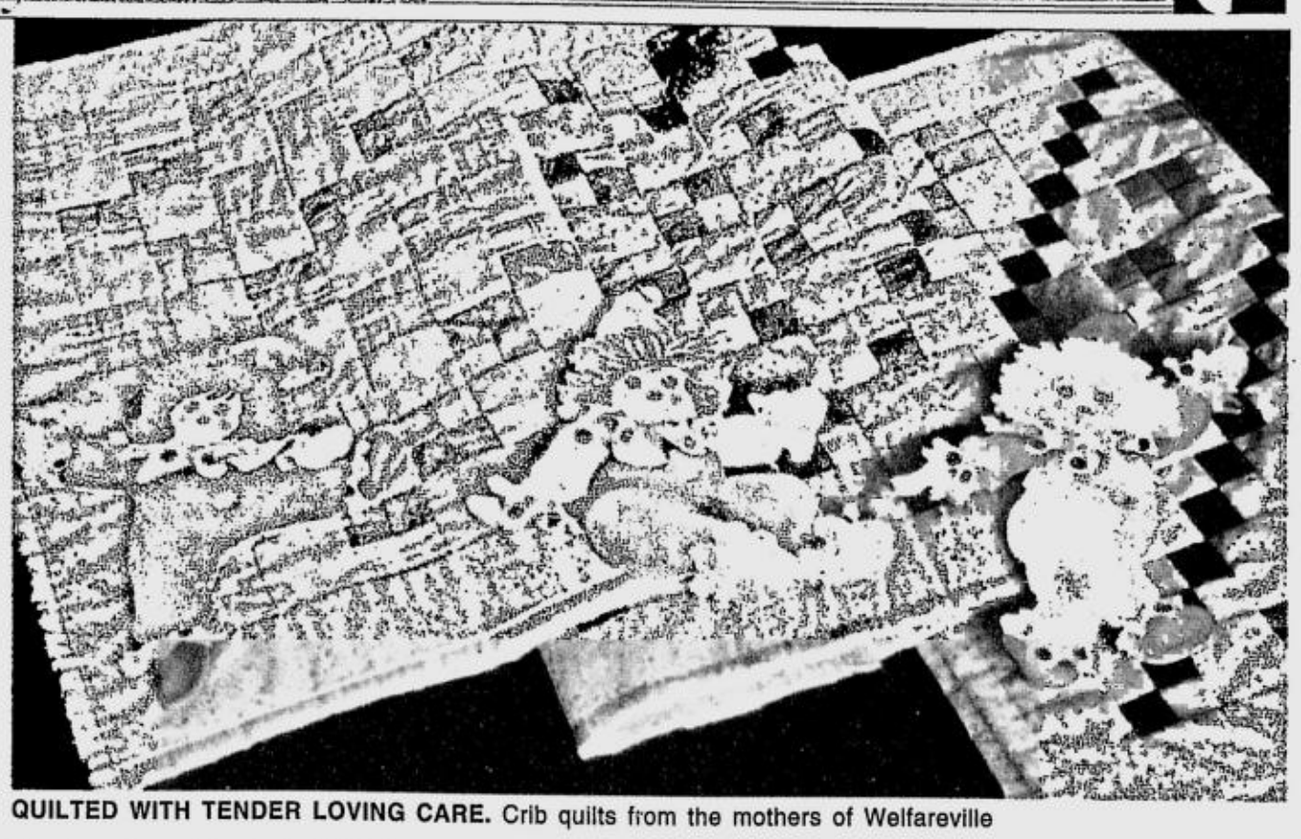


CROCHETED Christmas ornaments by the mothers of Welfareville

ALL-OCCASION cards specially made by street children



BROWN paper bags with drawings by the kids of UHF



QUILTED WITH TENDER LOVING CARE. Crib quilts from the mothers of Welfareville

HOW TO MAKE A PINOY QUILT. Minotte Rodrigo Cuenca and the mothers at quilting class

pleased with the unique patterns and combinations that the quilts yielded. When I was able to make two [full-size] bedcovers for my boys' twin beds, I realized I had a lot of scraps and it would be such a waste to throw them away," Cuenca explains.

"There were about eight skeptical mothers that showed up on the first day of quilting class. Some of them knew how to do the basic backstitch and running stitch. The rest were there to make *usyoso*," Cuenca adds with a smile. That first day, she patiently explained what they were to do. She felt the mothers were sizing her up. "They just could not see the relevance of crafting in their lives," she adds. "What I remember is that they started to warm up to the idea when I pulled out the crib quilt I made for my daughter. They seemed interested that the quilt could be assembled from scraps—and by hand, too."

To Cuenca's surprise, the mothers came to class the following week with their practice quilts —all finished. "The handiwork was excellent and it looked like it was machine-pieced," she proudly relates while showing off her student's works. The following Saturday more mothers joined the class until there were a total of 20 quilters in all. Slumped on the floor, all sweaty in a dusty multipurpose center in the middle of Addition Hills in Mandaluyong, some of the women had extremely thick glasses and could not even thread a needle. However, quilting apparently gave them a lot of self-confidence. Of course, the money earned comes handy during these difficult times.

Cuenca says the mothers come to class happy and proud. "Ma'am, *pinambayad ko yung kita ko sa* quilt *sa kuryente at upa namin*!" says Roselyn, one of the mothers. Lita, the group's fastest quilter, claims that the livelihood project has not only been a great help but a source of therapy as well after her husband died. Vicky, whose husband fell ill and could not work, says quilting has helped her husband, too. "*Lagi siyang nalulungkot dahil wala na daw siyang silbi. Pinaggupit ko ng retaso, at nabuhayan siya ng loob. Ngayon*, busy *siya lagi sa paggupit*," she ends with a smile.

Reaffirmed self-worth

Some of the women have drunkard or shabu-addicted husbands. They make sure the men do not get their hands on their quilt earnings so they can spend it on their children. "Their self-worth has certainly been affirmed through quilting," Cuenca notes. "*Dati*, Ma'am, *istambay lang kami o kaya nagto-tong-its*," one mother says with an embarrassed laugh. Nowadays, they find that they have no time to waste, busy as they are with quilting.

The young boys and girls at UHF's shelter on St. Francis have likewise benefited from the arts and crafts classes. Creating colorful cards, bags and fans that they hope to sell this Christmas season, the young people spend their time drawing or coloring to forget their woes and cares. UHF has a volunteer art teacher who holds classes three times a week. The children clearly enjoy the work and it shows in the finished product.

"Art has been a means of therapy for many of them," says Amy, who supervises the center. One can see the glimmer of pride in the children's eyes as they proudly show visitors to the center their artistic creations. It is heartwarming to see the young boys and girls' beautiful projects with lovely colors and images that perhaps speak of a happier time in their very young but troubled lives.

"The child is paid a certain sum for each work that he/she completes," Amy explains. The kids hand over their "earnings" to Ate Amy for safekeeping, planning to use them later to purchase food for the family, medicine for a sick sibling, or even to pursue the dream of getting a higher education.

With Christmas just around the corner, the children and mothers of Welfareville hope and pray that many will be moved to purchase the simple gifts that they have lovingly and painstakingly crafted by hand and put their whole heart and soul into.

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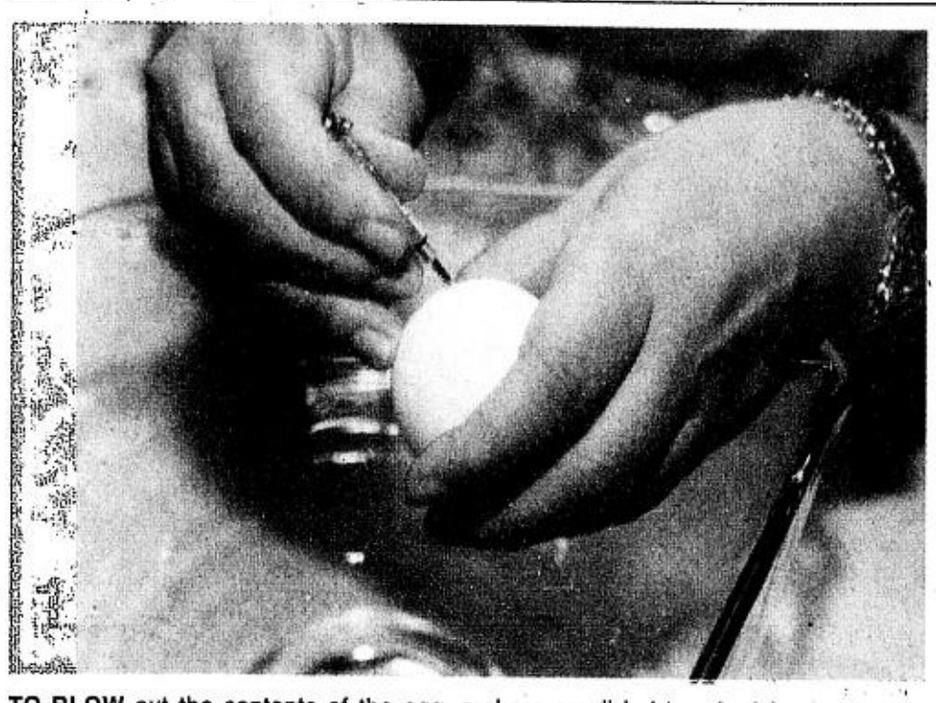
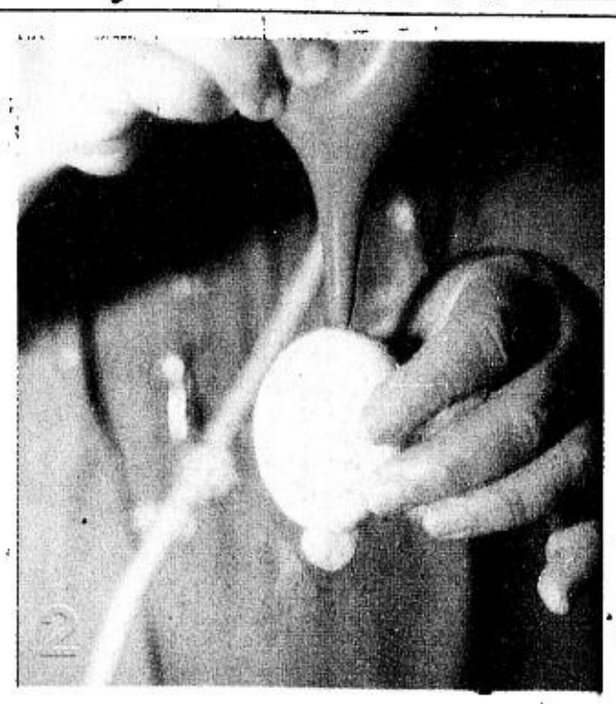
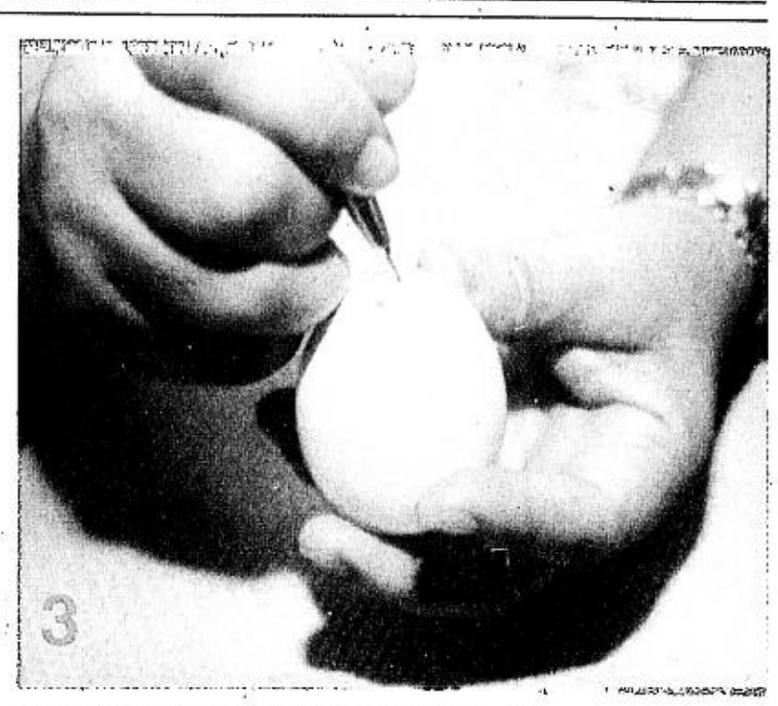


TO BLOW out the contents of the egg, make a small hole on both ends—but off center—of the egg with a metal screw or a large needle

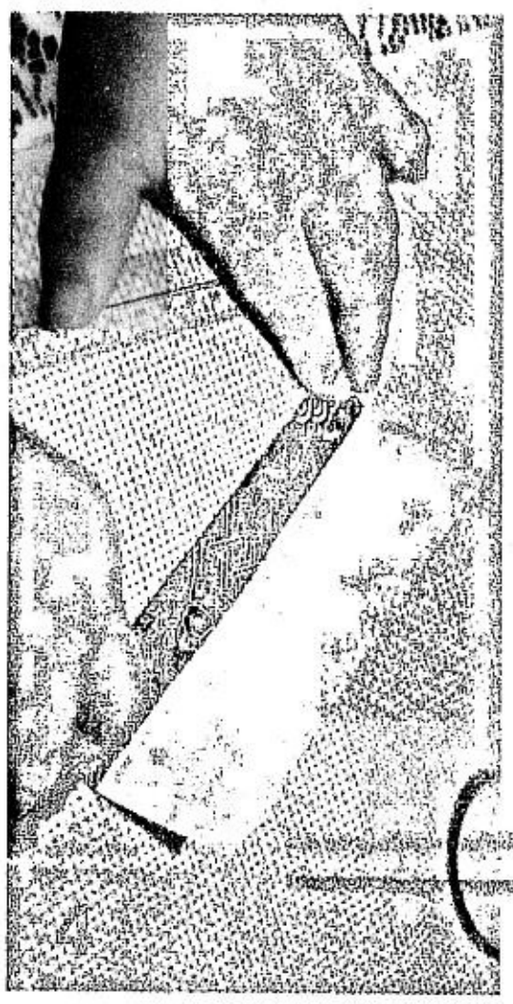


USE a nasal aspirator to squeeze the egg's contents out of the small hole until everything is removed. Wash the eggshell in water and soap. Let dry for two to three days.



TO EASILY and accurately position the washi paper on the eggshell, make a pencil mark at each end of the egg.

Egg-citing way to make holiday decor



CUT a rectangular piece of Japanese washi paper. Fold the paper in half widthwise. Then fold in half again.

BY VANGIE BAGA-REYES
PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

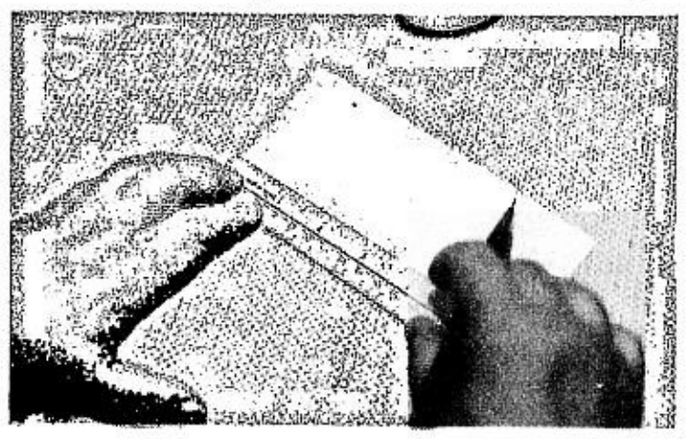
DO you like eggs? Then, here is a way where you can have your egg and eat it, too.

Japan's popular washi egg art is now attracting Filipino craft hobbyists. The craft uses real eggshells that are covered with washi paper and smoothed. Several layers of varnish are applied for a high-gloss sheen.

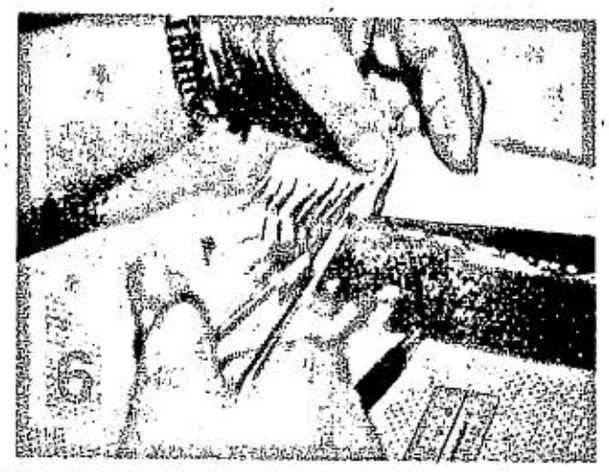
CRAFT

Washi actually refers to Japanese handmade paper using a delicate kind of fiber. The paper, which has bright colors and beautiful prints, is used by the Japanese for wrapping gifts, dressing up Japanese dolls, covering *nori* (containers for food like sushi) and small tea boxes.

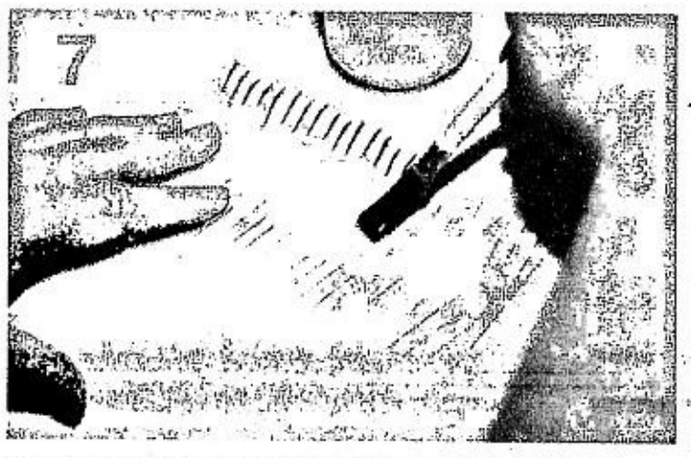
Washi egg-making is actually a traditional Japanese craft. The eggs are transformed into delicately patterned orbs by painstakingly covering them with washi paper. They may not be as valuable as the Faberge jeweled eggs but they make beautiful accent pieces and Christmas ornaments for your home.



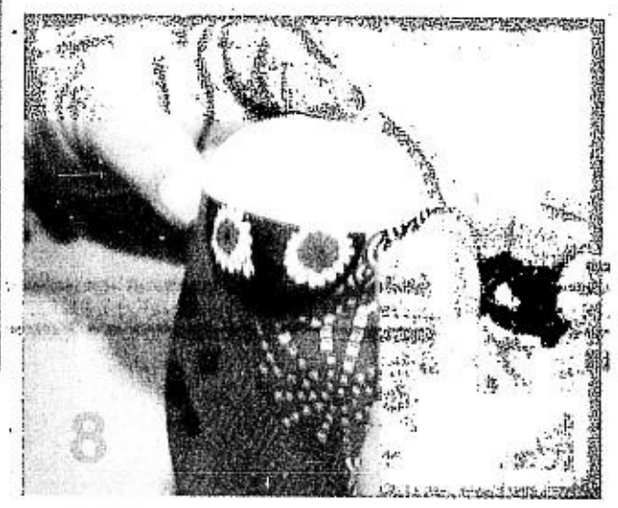
DRAW vertical lines to mark the outermost folds.



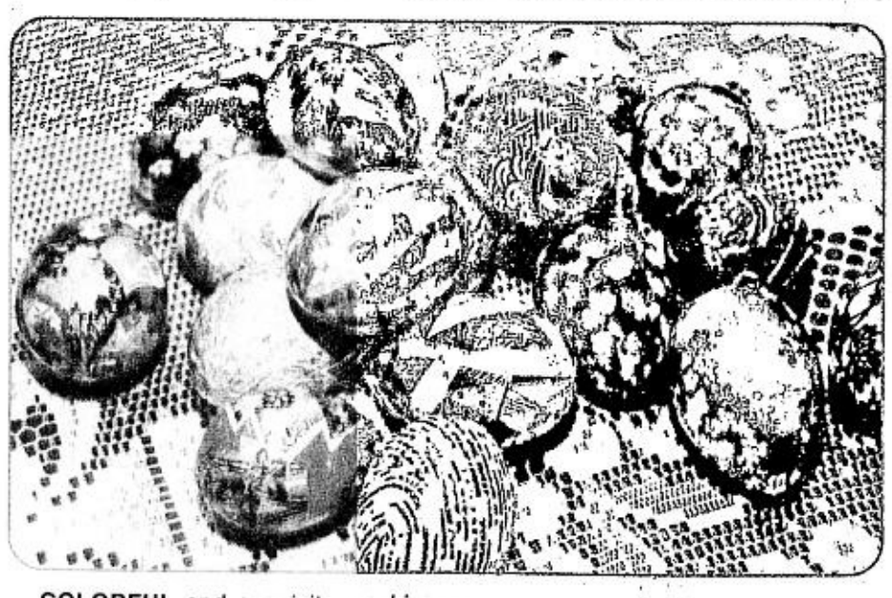
MAKE diagonal cuts up to the vertical lines, going down the width of the paper to create a picket-fence effect.



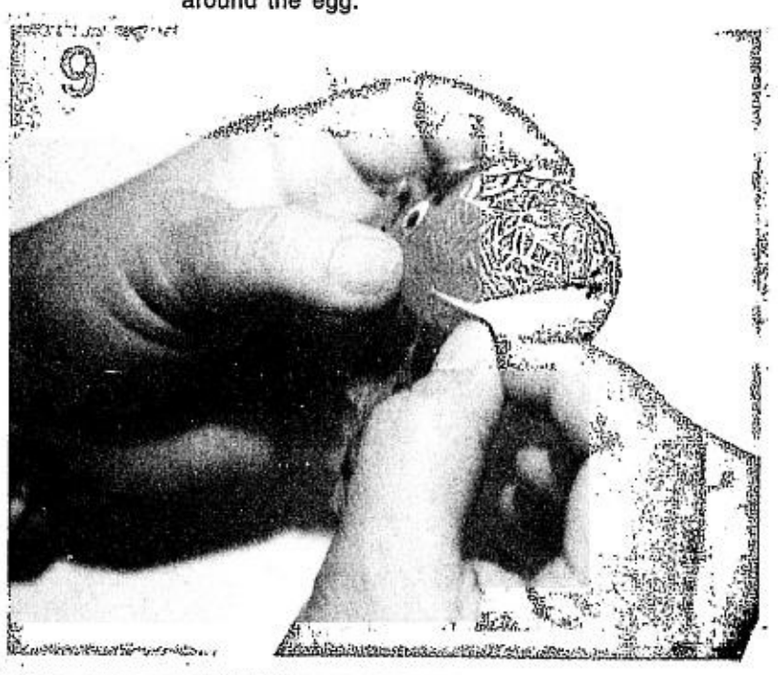
UNFOLD the paper. You will now see upper and lower "fences." With a brush, apply paste to the paper.



STARTING from the bigger end of the egg and holding the fold of the paper on the pencil marks you made at each end, gently wrap the paper around the egg.



COLORFUL and exquisite washi eggs



PUSH down the pickets one at a time, making them overlap with the points meeting at the top. Apply extra paste to the paper around the top section. Make sure the eggshell does not show. Smooth out any air bubbles or wrinkles. Trim excess paper at the tip if necessary. Set aside for 30 minutes to dry thoroughly.

FANCY eggs as Christmas trimmings

The project will need several real eggs, the sizes of which will depend on your personal choice. You can opt to use quail, ostrich, double-yolk, or any ordinary chicken eggs. Each egg must be cleaned and its contents removed by blowing. But nothing goes to waste here. You can make yourself your favorite egg recipe with the contents removed from your craft material.

The washi paper, available at Craft World in Robinsons Galleria, costs P400 but you can use it to wrap about 36 pieces of eggs. You can also use ordinary gift-wrapping paper but the egg would not look as delicate and pretty as when you use washi paper.

You will also need a ruler, pencil, pair of scissors, nasal aspirator, small screw or T-pin, paintbrush, varnish and paste diluted in a little water for a thick, runny consistency with no lumps. Craft World's Zeny Perez says if you want to use the eggs for your Christmas tree, glue a small clamp with a thread at the tip of the egg.

E-mail the author at vbaga@-inquirer.com.ph

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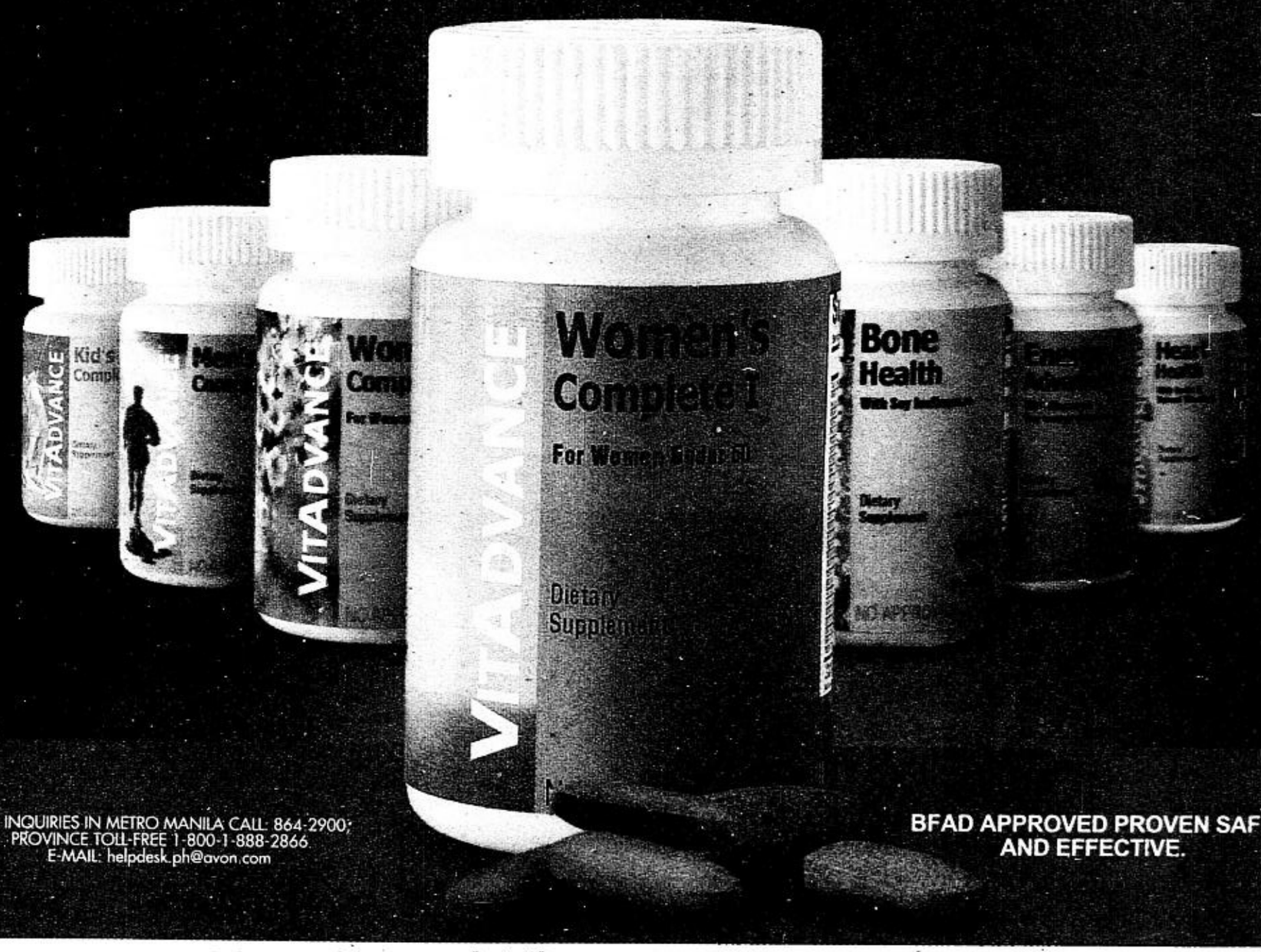

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Sunday LIFESTYLE
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

JACKIE AQUINO, JOEY ESPINO, ARIEL LOZADA AND ROBBY CARMONA

Catwalk queen makers

THE DIRECTOR has a tough job: he's got to make the producer's dream into a reality; create another world onstage and turn ugly duckling talents into swans.

The director of fashion shows faces the same challenges. He's got to deal with the idiosyncrasies of producers and designers, bring out the specialty of the designer and make his collection desirable to the clients and press.

Although Manila has been rocked with all sorts of bad news, the unstable political and economic situation has not prevented launches and fashion shows. Directors of these shows have been busy—and well paid at that—that they all could afford to take a long vacation out of the country.

At Dad's-Kamayan-Saisaki at Glorietta 3, Playtime did lunch with some of the busiest directors in town—Jackie Aquino, Ariel Lozada, Joey Espino and Robby (spelled with a "y," please), Carmona.

PLAYTIME

By the staff

How do we introduce them? Age first before beauty?

Joaquin Noel Aquino is the most ebullient of the group, coming from a theater background. The AB Literature graduate from De La Salle University ("Assumption-Taft," Jackie says in jest) worked with designer Anthony Nocom and entrepreneur Katrina Ponce Enrile when she had a ready-to-wear line called Options in 1985. One of his early jobs was directing a landmark fashion show on men's wear at a disco in San Juan. Not in a long time had Manila focused on designers for this category. It introduced designers Gerry Katigbak, Marden Iglesias and Nocom as well as the young talent Eric Quizon.

In 1993, Aquino moved to New York where he stayed for five years. He honed his craft working during Fashion Week. His most recent triumphs were directing the Wink collection by Rhett Eala at the RCBC Plaza, the relaunch of Luna under Pia Regala-Hebron, and the Ferragamo show.

Joey Espino studied at the University of Santo Tomas and began his directing career in 1990. His vision is progressive and expansive. Thus, the penchant for large-scale projects such as shows in Malacañang, raising money for the charities of then First Lady Loi Ejercito, making the MRT into a

CATWALK/ p.D2

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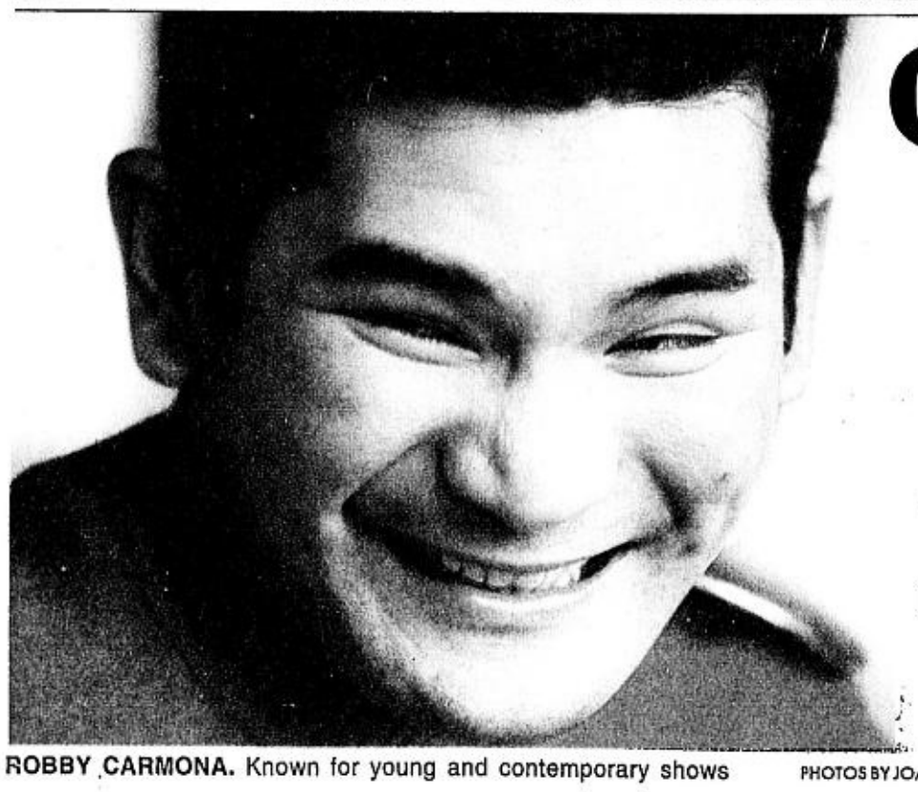
Catwalk queen makers

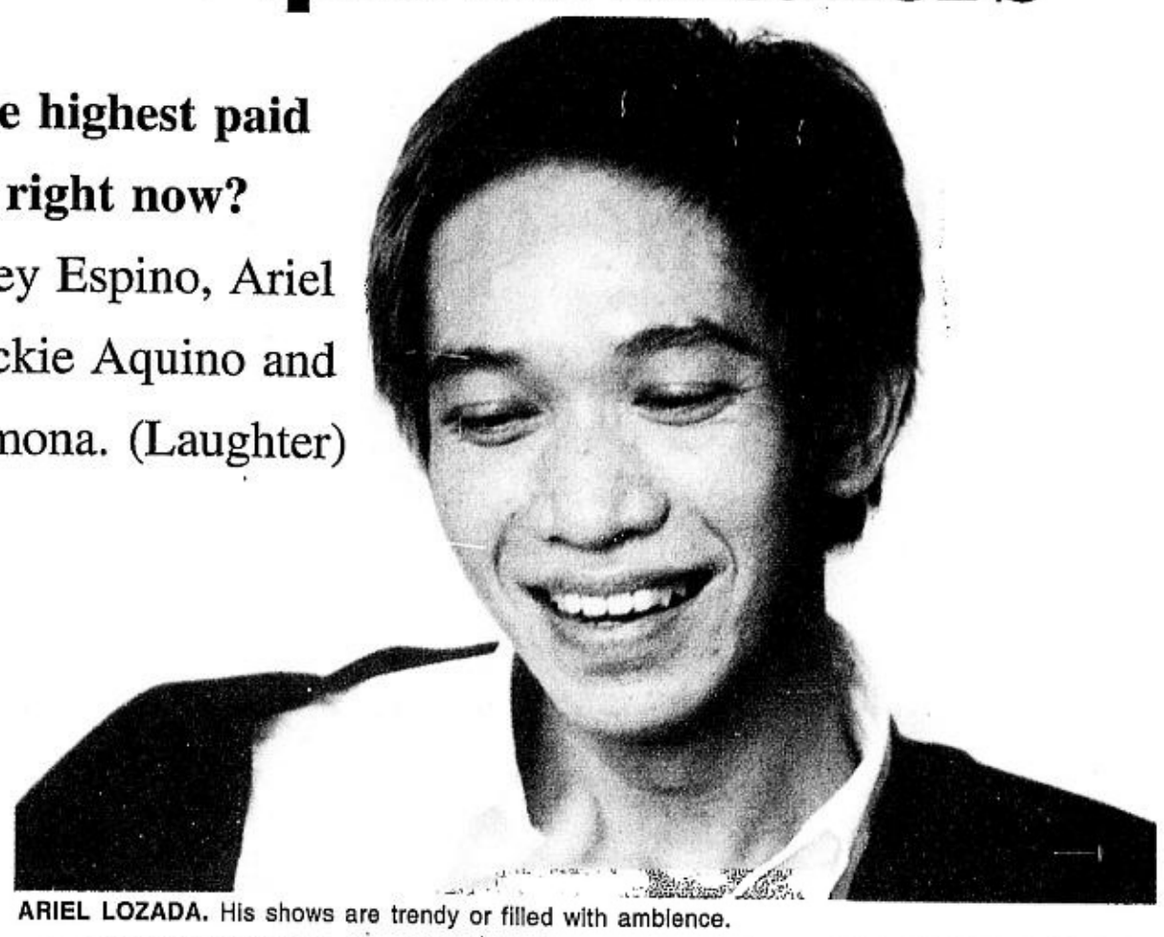


ROBBY CARMONA. Known for young and contemporary shows

PHOTOS BY JOAN BONDOC

Who's the highest paid model right now?

Robby: Joey Espino, Ariel Lozada, Jackie Aquino and Robby Carmona. (Laughter)



ARIEL LOZADA. His shows are trendy or filled with amblence.

(From page D1)

ramp, and the P15-million interactive, satellite-fed launch of Oxygen. He generates concepts, projects and contacts, sometimes in improbable ways, and always lots of thrill. Yet he keeps the ledger in balance with shrewd business acumen.

Espino established the local office of Cal Carrie International that serves as a talent pool and also helps to professionalize the industry. His Runway Productions specializes in special events and fashion shows, including the Supermodel Search.

Espino maintains that work ethics should have a spiritual foundation. He imparts his values to his models and colleagues.

"In this kind of business you must have a strong spirituality. Make sure you know what you're doing and you are aware of its consequences," he says.

While Espino was directing the big projects, Ariel Lozada was in tow. This AB Economics major at San Beda got his break directing the launch of Emporio Armani. He then directed Inno Sotto's show in Paris. Big projects followed such as the Asean Design Show, done in cooperation with then First Lady Ming Ramos and the wives of the cabinet members, the Apec fashion show, Fashion Watch, Bench and Human. Lozada's dynamic approach and streamlined working habits make him a favorite of Manila's top designers.

"He's very systematic. He keeps his word. He looks into details and makes sure they're in place. He doesn't wait for the last minute or forgets things. He doesn't take small details for granted. He also has a good working staff," says designer Lulu Tan-Gan.

Lozada's most recent project was Rajo Laurel's show at the NBC Tent.

The youngest of this group, Robert Christopher Carmona, 28, comes from a family of models. His father, Derek, and his aunts, Anda and Charo Carmona, were popular models in the '70s. While he was still studying marketing at De-La Salle University, Carmona also ventured into modeling. The production side caught his interest. He recalls that in one show, the director backed out and the organizers panicked. Without any experience, Carmona, then 22, volunteered to meg the show. Although he was paid P3,000 for the work, Carmona realized that directing was his passion.

Carmona established himself when he directed the launch of Girbaud jeans. His concept, mixing French denims with diamonds, was considered innovative then. The show also brought to the fore the Propaganda makeup team. Among his biggest shows are those of Jewelmer's held at the Hong Kong Exhibition Center during the jewelry trade fair. Carmona is known to specialize in shows that are youth-oriented or hip.

Indeed, each one of them is unique, with his own loyal clientele. The four of them are good friends.

"If you get along together very well, like you talk the same language, have the same fun, it all boils down to that," says Aquino.

These directors have worked with the country's most colorful personalities in the fashion industry. They've caught their talents in their most unguarded yet. They know the truth in the bitchy fashion world, but when they face the press, they are disarmingly innocent.

(To Ariel) How was it like directing Rajo Laurel's show?

Ariel: It was fun working with Rajo because of the liberty given to us in terms of interpreting. I can't say much about the clothes. I think Rajo should be the one to expound on that. I was also focusing on myself in terms of presentation. Every time I work with a designer, I always look at the personality, because I know, whether the designer is being true to himself or not, I will never go wrong. Your appreciation of something is a reflection of your personality. That's where I based the concept of the show. The video that I played during the show was also based on my personal experiences and also how I see myself.

How do you feel about working with designers who are very controversial, like Rajo Laurel who seems to be the heir apparent to Inno Sotto in terms of intrigues?

Ariel: It's all about work, really. I don't also find *na* it's fair to compare Inno and Rajo because they're of different levels. Rajo is very young. *Malaki pa 'yung* time *niya* to be able to master his craft. I think Inno is the only, well, designer you can be proud of right now. I don't know, maybe because of the psychology of his design.

I am curious in the area of intrigues, not in terms of clothes. Rajo now has been getting a lot of flak. People are saying his nickname is Science Fiction. *Puro* hype. When you get that kind of gossip, what do you do?

Ariel: Uh... (Long pause) (Joey arrives in the nick of time while Ariel wipes the sweat off his forehead.)

Joey: I'm sorry, *nakalimutan ko. Nasa simbahan ako nung natanggap ko 'yung* text. I was in the confessional box.

Ariel: I've worked with most of the designers, and to some of them *medyo* close *ako*. I can only speak of Rajo to a certain point. With regards to those issues, *siya lang ang nakakaalam nun*.

Was there ever an instance that he fabricated things to you? (Laughs)

Ariel: (Wipes his forehead) *Alam ni* Jackie. *Sagutin mo nga*. (Laughter)

(To Jackie) Have you worked with Rajo? What can you say?

Rajo Laurel now has been getting a lot of flak. People are saying his nickname is Science Fiction. *Puro* hype. When you get that kind of gossip, what do you do?

Ariel: Uh... (Long pause. He wipes the sweat off his forehead.)

Was there ever an instance that he fabricated things to you? (Laughs)

Ariel: (Wipes his forehead) *Alam ni* Jackie. *Sagutin mo nga*. (Laughter)

JOEY ESPINO. Master of large-scale projects

How much are you worth today?

Jackie: *Sinasabi ko*, 'I'm not expensive, I'm worth it.' (Laughter)

JACKIE AQUINO. Focuses on fashion shows

Jackie: Rajo is very young. He has so much promise ahead of him. I guess somehow he also reminds me of my youth, when I was so exuberant. *Syempre* he's very excitable but sooner or later when everything settles down and he realizes what his focus should be, I'm sure one day his design will really come out and shine.

(To Joey) We were talking about Rajo being the heir apparent to Inno in the area of intrigues. Since *nakita mo 'yung* career *niya* as a young designer, how do you handle those comments?

Ariel: Joey will only talk about Rajo's love life. (Laughter)

Joey: *Ikaw talaga*, Ariel!

Okay, let's talk about your love life. (Cheers) Are you allowed to mess with male models? (Laughter)

Jackie: They mess with us. (Laughter)

Do you have relationships with them?

Robby: They want to have relationships with us. (Laughs)

***Baka nag-iilusyon ka lang*! (Laughter)**

Ariel: *Hindi, maganda talaga kami*!

Jackie: We have relationships with them, real or imagined. (Laughter)

Male or female?

Jackie: Both. (Laughter) It's so much fun in this industry. Especially me, when I started, most of them *kasi* ended up as my friends. I grew up with them because we basically started together. I advanced the same way they advanced. I learned about their personal lives. I got involved in their personal lives.

***Sinong magkakaaway na* designers?**

Jackie: *Ay*!

Joey: *Iba na ang* drama *ng* generation *na 'to, eh*. When they see each other they smile, but they let their clothes speak. (Laughter)

So 'yung* older generation, *lantaran nag-aaway?

Joey: Actually, *mas* civil *sila. Ganun talaga. Lalabas na lang sa damit nila. Kung sino ang pinalakpakan, "O, ayan, pinalakpakan ako." 'Yun na 'yun.*

Ariel: *Saka 'yung mga taguan ng damit.*

Joey: *Iyan ang problema namin. Magso-*show *na, 'di pa nilalabas ang damit. Paglabas ng damit mali 'yung* music *mo*. (Laughter)

Who's creating the intrigues between Joe Salazar and Inno Sotto? Is it from the fashion circle or just the gossipmongers?

Ariel: The gossipmongers.

Joey: Basically *'yung mga nagpapatahi ng damit sa kanila* are the ones who would experience it, *eh*. There are times that somebody would try Joe Salazar, Inno Sotto and they have certain comments about those things. You dress up for the occasion, *eh*, so *hindi mo rin talaga mapagma-*match *'yun. Minsan gusto ko mas* sweet, *punta ako kay* Salazar. *Gusto ko* made *ako at* sure, Inno Sotto *'yan*. Auggie Cordero, classic *ka kinakailangan*.

***'Yung* polka dot issue *lumitaw na naman*. (Laughs) (In 1999, Inno Sotto presented a fashion show inspired by Filipino abstract artists, thus, the gowns were in basic colors and adorned with discs. Two days later, Joe Salazar showed four gowns with large dots, symbolic of the new millennium and prosperity.)**

Joey: In fairness to all of them, I saw the production of the polka dot. *Pareho sila noon pa gumagawa na ng* polka dot, all at the same time *magkasabay sila*...

But it resurfaced, *eh. May mga nagsasabi nga na* GMA *daw* is politically incorrect for wearing a Salazar to Inno's show. (Laughs) But you see, if you know her family history, she's like her mom. The mom is very practical—*kung anong meron ka, 'yun na*.

She even said that during our Playtime with her before she became president. *Hindi siya nagde-*designer, *kung nagniningning lang siya. At saka hindi siya magpapagawa ng sobra-sobra*.

Joey: Joe and Inno are already good designers. The fact that they were able to get that same kind of sensibility, that polka dot, *makikita mo 'yung* senses *nila* attuned. *At magkakaiba sila ng* rendition. That's a good sign *na magagaling talaga ang* Filipino designers. *At pag makita mo 'yung* craftsmanship, *makikita mong iba talaga ang* drama *maski parehong bilog 'yung tinitingnan nila*. I guess Inno at the time was interpreting Arturo Luz or this other artist; Salazar *naman* was making circles because it was lucky because it was close to Christmas and New Year.

Who among you are outlandish in directing shows?

Robby: (Giggles) *Kaming lahat*.

Among the designers?

Ariel: *Eto* his craziness is bearable, *si* Pepito Albert. But I like him. It's his style. *Grabe, 'yung kanyang* sketches *ganito kaliliit* (Folds a napkin) *pero paglabas ang ganda-ganda*! I've worked with him before also.

Jackie: That's why I consider Pepito good, because of his architectural background. Not only that. Remember when he first came to Manila, corsets became such a big hit because of him? When he started using organza, (Emphatic) everybody started using organza! (Robby mimics Jackie) (Laughter) He started using shawl, everybody started using shawl.

Ariel: The big sleeves.

Jackie: Yes! I'll tell you one lesson I learned from him. He said the problem with some designers, when they design for a fat woman, they think of the woman as fat. *Totoo nga, kasi* if you design, you design it regardless of who's going to wear it, period. *Sa* fitting *na o sa* finishing, make it fit the person.

What's the craziest fashion show you've ever directed in terms of concept?

Jackie: The weirdest was years ago! *Ano ba 'yung* disco *na 'yun*? Zigzag! The models were not basically modeling but playing characters. In a portion all of them were drunk, things like that. Wild! *Kay* Mark Hizon. He's now a costume designer for films. *'Yung isang modelo ang* role *niya plakda siya talaga* throughout the show! They had to drag her out of the stage.

Robby: *Ako madami kasi* I'm known for my crazy shows. Evian Fashion Series II was notable for *'yung mga* young designers like Warp, Adam de Lumen... *'Yung mga* models *galing sa tuktok ng kisame*, the designers came from *ataul* as their curtain call, a lot of crazy stuff. The recent one was Linen "Fashion Revolution" wherein the show was opened by guys taking a shower butt-naked.

Ariel: I don't remember any crazy show.

***Puro* proper like those of Inno Sotto's?**

Ariel: No! Well, I did Cecile Zamora's ("Defect") but I don't think *naman* it's crazy. And I don't think *naman* Cecile is the type of person... Well, she dresses up really different from usual. You get to hang out *kasi* with the designers so because of that, there's a big seriousness about the person and you capitalize on that.

Joey: My clients are basically imported, especially the senior designers. But for labels...

I'm sure in your careers, there've been times *na abonado kayo* for a show. (To Joey) Tell us about Louie Mamengo's show at the PICC.

Joey: Louie is a close friend of mine. I was just starting directing then, that was 1990. I was 22, 23. I'm 36 now and I'm happy about my age. (Chuckles) I had to fly in a video wall at the time from Taiwan. The first time we used it here there were 16 monitors. I used 32-monitor video wall, for performance art and painting on stage, fine arts group, the UP Concert Chorus, a segment with Regine Velasquez...The whole project amounted to P1.6 million at the time. I had to use my own money to pay for the whole amount. But it served as a good lesson. I'm happy with what I've done. That's where I learned how to produce a show and how to make every centavo really worth it and how you should value it. So before you think of any idea, you must know how much it would cost and how much trouble it would give you.

How about the rest of you?

Robby: Sometimes you have to sacrifice your director's fee just to be able to execute your idea.

Jackie: You do that basically when you're young. I've experienced that before. We've already reached the stage where we're more careful when it comes to that. We've learned. But when I was starting I had my share. *'Yung talagang* either the producer won't come up with something or... *Wala kang* choice, it's your face [that's at stake], *eh*.

Robby: I've learned from them, the seniors, *sa mga kuwento nga nila*...

Seniors? (Laughter)

Robby: I'm more careful. I seldom work with independent producers.

Jackie: You still compromise your fee in some other ways. Like when you know the budget has already been exhausted *at mahihiya ka na*, we take it upon ourselves *para lang gumanda*.

Robby: *Kunwari may naisip kang* idea in the middle at (emphatic) *gustong, gustong, gusto mo pero wala sa usapan, aabonohan mo 'yun*. Like, *para umangat 'yung* stage, etc.

***Siguro naman may* bonus *'pag ganun*.**

All: *Wala*.

Robby: *Ako* I seldom work with independent producers *kasi minsan nahihirapan silang maghanap ng* sponsors and they lose money. At the end of the day *hindi ka na nila babayaran, 'yung pinag-usapan niyo binabawasan na, dini-*discount *na*.

What are their biggest insecurities aside from competition?

Jackie: They're human.

How human?

Jackie: Very human. My best friend is a designer. *Si* Randy (Ortiz). We know each other's secrets. He's one person I don't have to pretend to be someone else. He knows what's on my mind, how I'm feeling on that day, and vice versa. I guess our insecurities are all the same in terms of our love life, families, careers. At the end of the day we're all human.

(To Robby) Is your best friend also a designer?

Robby: No, he's a makeup artist, Jing (Monis).

Ariel: My best friends are Joyce Jimenez and Michael Salientes.

Joey: My best friend—there's quite a lot of them. A few models, Ariel... Like Teresa Herrera, Gemith Gemparo and my brother Audie. Rajo is a friend of mine but now he's so busy and I'm also busy.

When was the last time you cried?

Robby: *Ako*, emptiness and loneliness *lang*. (Sings à la Britney Spears)

CATWALK / p.D3

Catwalk queen makers

(From page D2)

"My loneliness is killing me. I must confess I still believe..." Sometimes at the end of the day, after all the clamor, after all the power, after the praise and glory that they give you, when you go home, when you get to your room you feel empty.

Because there's nobody there?

Jackie: *Wala*?

(To Robby) *Akala ko* may love life *ka*?

Robby: Maybe that's part of it.

(To Robby) Do you have a relationship?

Robby: I wish... I'm working on someone. (Laughter)

Ariel: My love life is empty. It's like a flower vase. (Laughter) But this is the emptiness that motivates you to be creative.

***Akala ko ba* you cried over your quarrel with the producer of this designer?**

Jackie: You cry about real things. Like recently, the mother of my best friend passed away. Then I saw the World Trade Center crash, I cried. I thought, God, I used to see that every day!

Hindi ninyo iniiyakan ang mga* production *ninyo?

Joey: The last time I cried was during Rajo's show. I produced it and he (Ariel) directed it and I've been telling him that it was great. They never thought it would be possible to come up with such concepts. And, there was respect with each other. I'm happy because we've been friends since before. *Sige, magpo*-produce *ako ngayon, ikaw ang magdidirek*. Hours before the show, "Are you happy?" *Sabi niya, "Naku, masaya ako."* Once and for all I wanted to prove to myself and to anybody that friends can be together and at the same time you can still work together.

Who are your discoveries?

Robby: Wilma (Doesnt), Vince Pinto, Nicolette Bell...

Joey: First batch of Filipino supermodels—Marilen Espino, Abbygale Arenas, Lala Flores, Cara Subijano, Lorena Pangan, Gemith Gemparo, Jeffrey Veloso, the new supermodels now and all the Cal Carrie models.

Ariel: I used to hold workshops every Sunday. Among the products of those workshops is Joan Bitagcol.

Jackie: I don't think I've ever discovered anyone. I'm not in the habit *kasi* of doing that. What I know I've done is help them get to where they wanted to go. One of these people that I'm very proud of—but you don't know her anymore—was Maribel Lastimoso. I didn't discover her; somebody else did, but we became very close. I pushed her and pushed her to go abroad and she did very well in New York and Europe. The ones that became very close to me but I didn't discover them were *sina* Tweety, Apples, Suyen Chi, Izza Gonzalez. I guess what I've done is to inspire them.

If somebody wants to be a fashion director, how much should his fee be?

Joey: Starting? Robby wouldn't know. (Laughter)

Robby: *Hindi na ako* starting *'no*!

Joey: *Ako* I started at P10,000.

Robby: *Ako* lower, P3,000, SM. (Laughs) *Mga* Mars disco shows *ko nun* back in '94.

How much are you worth today?

Robby: *Ay*! *Ma*-BIR! *Ayaw*! (Laughs)

(To Robby) *Nakabili ka na ng* Jewelmer necklace?

Robby: *Wala nga, eh. Wala nga akong* Rolex and Cartier, *'no*!

Ariel: *Pag in*-approach *ako ng kliyente*, I always tell them, "I don't have a standard rate. It always depends on the scope and responsibility."

Robby: *Ako naman may* basic standard rate. *'Pag nadagdagan, kunyari gagawa ako ng* video, *madadagdagan din 'yun. Kung padagdag ng padagdag 'yung trabaho, nadadagdagan din 'yun.*

Ariel: *Kasi iba-iba din sila ng gusto.*

Robby: *Oo. Saka sa dami ng* workload *ko...*

Jackie: *Sinasabi ko*, "I'm not expensive, I'm worth it." (Laughter)

Robby: But there are some jobs you would do practically for free. *Basta* love *mo siya.*

Joey: *Mga* charity shows, *parang* service tithing *din.*

Robby: *Tulad nung kay* Mang Ben (Farrales), "Fashion for a Cause." All of the directors gather together and work on the project. And I think not only the directors but also the other people in the industry, like models, designers...

But you only rehearse for one night. (Laughs)

Robby and Jackie: The same day!

Jackie: But that's how it's supposed to be done somehow.

Robby: But in terms of meetings *naman*, we meet a lot of times to talk about it.

Joey: We ask for just very minimal, for transportation allowance of our people.

Robby: What's nice about us now is that we're friends. *Si* Joey and Ariel hang out. Me and Jackie hang out. Sometimes we all hang out also. We do crazy stuff among ourselves limited to us only... (Laughter)

Jackie: We have common friends.

Joey: There's an open line of communication among us. We respect each other's work. If people make comments about our work, that is their opinion.

Robby: There was a time this client *pinaglalaruan*

CATWALK / p.D4

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Catwalk queen makers

(From page D3)

kami ni Joey. *Tawagan kami talaga.*

Joey: *Tumawag sa kanya 'yung kliyente, hindi niya alam magkausap din kami ni* Robby *sa kabilang linya. "Hindi totoo 'yan kasi nasa kabilang linya rin siya!"*

Robby: "Joey, *ano ba ito? Nalooka ako.*" *Tinalakan niya 'yung kliyente.*

What did the client want?

Joey: "This is the price that I want. If you don't want, I'll get another director to do it."

Robby: "Robby Carmona will do it for this lower amount!" I told him, "Ideally I can accept it for a lower price because I'm a junior director *pero hindi ko gagawin 'yan. Respeto ko na lang kay* Joey." *Nagkataon nasa kabilang linya rin si* Joey.

Ariel: That's why every time there's a bidding I don't join..

Robby: *Ako rin.*

Ariel: I don't believe in bidding for a fashion show. When you conceive a project, tell me your cost and we'll work on that. I'd be stupid to come up with a price then *ang liit-liit naman nung* project.

Robby: For example, Cinderella account. Joey will do some of the events, then Ariel and I will also do some of the shows. *Bahala 'yung* client *kung sino ang gusto nila.*

Joey: *Walang nagsusulutan.*

Kayo lang bang apat?

Jackie: *Meron pa.*

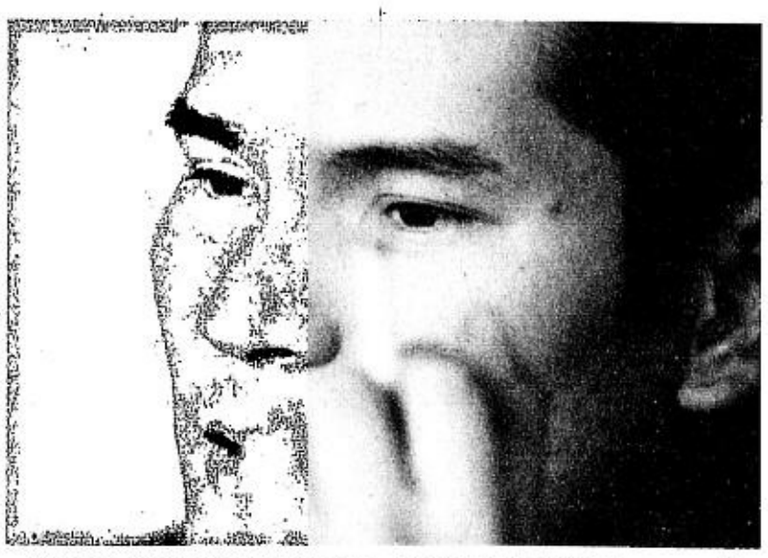
Robby: *Ngayon* surprisingly *ang dami-daming* fashion shows *nangyayari* all around Manila, *pero* of course *'yung iba hindi na dumadaan sa amin kasi nga 'yung mga, kumbaga sa* concert *may lumabas na* model, *naglalakad, may* music *lang...*

Jackie: Just like there are wannabe models, there are also a lot of wannabe directors.

Joey: *Taray!* (Laughter)

Jackie: *Totoo naman, eh.*

Joey: *Mabuti na lang talaga* we talk to each other *para kapag may* issue, *"Totoo bang ganyan?" Minsan pag-aaway-awayin pa kami, eh. Ang* pact *namin* is, *kung meron kang gustong malaman,* call me.



Robby: *Ganun ang* relationship *namin. 'Yun ang maganda sa* generation *namin.* We're more open; we're more secure. We all have work; we're all busy.

Jackie: And all of us have our own market, and we have our own clients. And I guess we use each other's work as the inspiration of the other. *"Ay! Ang ganda ng* show *niya! Sana kasing-ganda din nun ang* show *ko!*" We make it a positive energy.

Robby: And at this point we've developed our own style *na* so clients would know *kung kanino babagay.*

Ariel: We have very loyal clients.

Robby: Exactly. So *'yung mga bago na akala nila palengke kami na puwede silang tumawad, nagtatawagan kami.*

Why does every fashion show have to end with a bride?

Jackie and Robby: Not anymore.

(To Jackie) *Pero di ba si* **Rhett** *may* **bride?**

Jackie: We just termed it as the finale bride.

Ariel: A lot of bridal shows are cropping up everywhere so there's a lot of venue for that.

Jackie: Way, way back, the formula was to open with a swimsuit then end with a bride.

Joey: One more thing, one of the most expensive outfits a person will buy is a bridal gown, unless your collection is eveningwear and studded with stones and all that. People will spend and spare more money for a wedding gown.

(To Joey Espino) How true is it that when Renato Balestra saw the models during the go-see for his show in 1996, he said they looked like kitchen utensils?

Joey: I wasn't there when he said that. I told him, "This is what the Philippines has. You'll have to be happy with what we have to offer here." After *nakita niyang* they can walk well, nag-change *ang* impression *niya* about the whole thing.

That was also the comment of the principals when the Emporio Armani label was launched. The models were homely. (Laughs)

Joey: You know, that's one thing we have to upgrade, the sensibilities of Filipino models. If they'd be exposed abroad, they would see that models are...

Hindi naman magaganda ang* models abroad, *ah.

Robby: Proportioned *kasi.*

Joey: Stretchable *ang mga* measurements. *Pero* we also have to understand that we're not a fashion capital *na* every other day may fashion show. *'Yun ang problema sa atin. Pero* in general, in fairness to Filipino models, when they perform they are very good.

Robby: Yes. The problem with male models here, they don't work out. (Jackie nods) There was a time *nag-*go-see *kami ng mga* models. There was this foreign model *na dumating, isa lang, tapos mga* 30 Filipino male models. Of course they had to take off their shirts...

Shirt *lang*?

Robby: (Grins naughtily) Yes! *Nung nakita nung* Filipino models *'yung* foreign model *na maghubad, nakita nilang* proportioned, *lahat sila tumabi.* (Laughter) That should serve as a challenge and inspiration for them. If they really want to work as models...

Who's helping them do that?

Robby: They should help themselves also.

Ariel: A lot of adjustments have been done. Like when I did Rajo, my request *lang sa* models, no carbo, no fried food. There was a model *talaga,* "I'm giving you a week, no bread, no rice, no fried food." She lost so much weight. *Kasi ang* tendency *pag nagda-*diet *ka, papayat yung* upper portion *pero malaki pa rin ang balakang kasi kain nang kain ng* rice.

***Sinong magkakaaway na* designers?**

Joey: *Iba na ang* drama *ng* generation *na 'to, eh.* When they see each other they smile, but they let their clothes speak. (Laughter)

Robby: They have to work out, too...

Jackie: There are so many things to be done. Our industry is young.

Robby: One of my problems is coming up with a good lineup of models for a show. *'Pag* after *ng pang-*10, 11, 12, 13, *naku ang hirap na.*

Jackie: You'll be surprised because there are so many models here. At the end of the go-see, very few fit into the right mold.

Robby: *'Tapos 'pag gumagawa ka ng* group show for designers, *lahat sila isa o dalawang* model *lang 'yung gusto. "Gusto ko si ganito." "Gusto ko si ganyan." Ano ang gagawin ko, hahatiin ko 'yung kalawan?*

Ariel: *Kaya minsan ino-*offer *na namin mga sarili namin.* "We'll model for you." (Laughter) End of discussion. (Laughter)

So *'yung mga* 10 models *na 'yan ang tataas ng* fee.

Ariel: That's one of our disappointments also. *Maski gusto naming itaas 'yung ano,* it's really hard *kasi ang laki-laki ng* bulk *na 'yun.*

Joey: The most expensive item on our project cost is models' fee.

Jackie: I've been blessed *kasi* each time I talk to a client, "You want good models, you have to pay this much." *Gusto mo ng magandang* show, *dapat ganito ang* lights. Those are the things you fight for.

Robby: *May mga puwede mong i-*sacrifice, *pero meron kang mga* must-haves.

Aside from lack of good models, of models who take care of their bodies...

Robby: I believe it should start from themselves. It's not only that they come on time, they should learn and master their craft. They should develop themselves in terms of style, change their look *kasi 'yung* five years *nilang buhok ganun pa rin*! There are good stylists around...

Jackie: And that should come instinctively, *eh.* Perfect example is Linda Evangelista. Every season *nag-iiba siya ng buhok.* Now *nag-*comeback *ang ate ko*! Those are the things models here don't do, eh. They don't look at the bigger picture. They're just stuck here.

(To Robby) Are you proud of discovering Wilma Doesnt?

Robby: Yeah! *Kumbaga lahat ng* dreams *ko sa kanya, natupad na niya...* It's so sad when I read an article about the models and how much they earn now, it's way, way below compared to before, like during Myrza Sison's time, Izza's, Patti's, Joyce's time. Because those girls, they knew how to market themselves, *kasi* they themselves are their product. *Kunyari,* if I called up Joyce Oreña, "Joyce, can you do my show?" "Okay, I'll do it for P6,000, P7,000." The rate before was *ano lang...* "I'll get back to you, I'll call my client." "*O,* Joyce is asking this much." "Okay." *Kasi nga* they were really professional in their work. *Pagdating nila, inaaral nila ang detalye ng damit,* they're on time, *alam nilang igalaw 'yung damit, nakikinig sila sa* director, so worth it *'yung ibabayad mo.*

Joey: To improve the situation, this is how we could address it, I'm very happy with the way INQUIRER is doing its fashion shoots. The more fashion shoots *na ilabas mo dyan,* the more *magiging* fashionable *'yung mga tao,* the more *na maiintindihan nila na eto pala 'yung* latest. Even the models themselves would know how to dress themselves. Seldom would you really find a newspaper that could spare so much space for fashion pictorials. *'Pag 'yun nawala,* totally *wala ng* awareness *ang* Filipino *sa* fashion. This is very important because one way or another we are educating Filipinos on how to be fashionable. Even the models themselves will be aware that, "I have to look like that. *Ganyan na pala ang* in-season look." *Dahan-dahan silang mag-i-*improve, in the measurements and all that. We may have a lot of fashion magazines, but of course, it's kind of expensive compared to a newspaper, which you see almost every day. *Kapag nabasa mo,* it will be passed on to another person. *Kapag ang* awareness *tumaas, mag-papagupit na 'yung mga* models, *magpapapayat na sila, magpapaayos na.* Even the salons will want to sponsor some people. They have to show what they can do. Like in Singapore, a stylist would recommend certain salons where models would go. *Kasi 'pag naayusan sila,* walking advertisement *'yan. Pag 'yung mga tao nakita, "Uy, 'yan 'yung* model *na nakita ko sa* fashion spread *ng* INQUIRER Lifestyle, *'yan na pala ang uso ngayon." Nagkakaroon ng* connection.

Ariel: The main problem *kasi,* if we talk about models, is the lack of individuality. On your part as a newspaper you can only do so much; as directors, you can only do so much; as designers, you can only do so much. *Hindi mo mafi-*feed *'yan, eh.* It has to come from you as models.

Robby: *Sinabi namin,* "*Mag-*work out *ka.*" *Eh, kung ayaw.*

Ariel: Your style cannot be my own style.

Maybe because there's not so much credit that they can earn.

Robby: The way I see it *kasi* is economy again.

Joey: There are some jobs that are handsomely paid.

Who's the highest paid model right now?

Robby: Joey Espino, Ariel Lozada, Jackie Aquino and Robby Carmona. (Laughter)

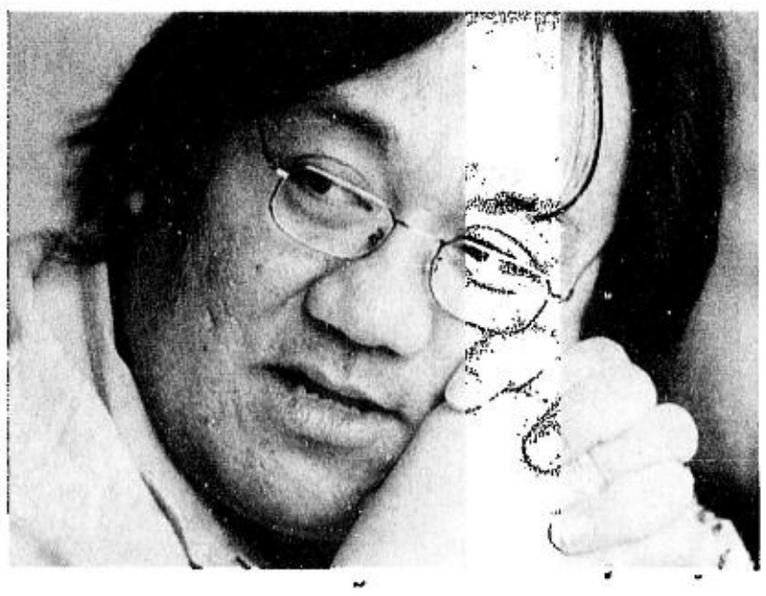
If you were an article of clothing, what would you be?

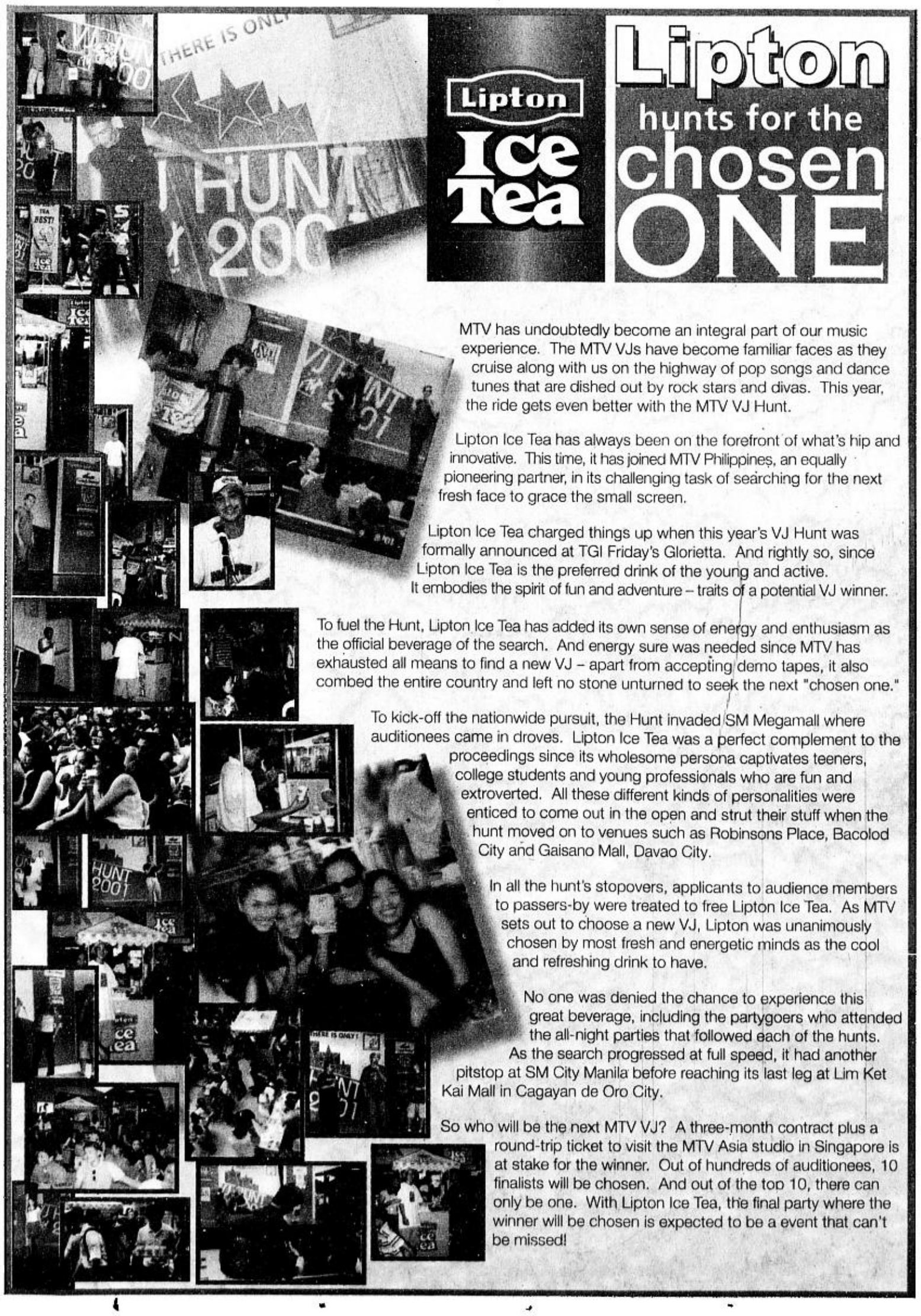
Robby: (Grins) Let me be your underwear so I can catch you there, there and there. (Laughter)

Ariel: A T-shirt and denim—an all-time season outfit.

Joey: Suit. I always go for the corporate wear. Fashion is about business and the only way to educate people is first to propagate this idea, and this can only be done through business.

Jackie: I'll be a fur coat (Laughter) not because I love wearing them but because I want to give warmth. (Laughter)





MTV has undoubtedly become an integral part of our music experience. The MTV VJs have become familiar faces as they cruise along with us on the highway of pop songs and dance tunes that are dished out by rock stars and divas. This year, the ride gets even better with the MTV VJ Hunt.

Lipton Ice Tea has always been on the forefront of what's hip and innovative. This time, it has joined MTV Philippines, an equally pioneering partner, in its challenging task of searching for the next fresh face to grace the small screen.

Lipton Ice Tea charged things up when this year's VJ Hunt was formally announced at TGI Friday's Glorietta. And rightly so, since Lipton Ice Tea is the preferred drink of the young and active. It embodies the spirit of fun and adventure – traits of a potential VJ winner.

To fuel the Hunt, Lipton Ice Tea has added its own sense of energy and enthusiasm as the official beverage of the search. And energy sure was needed since MTV has exhausted all means to find a new VJ – apart from accepting demo tapes, it also combed the entire country and left no stone unturned to seek the next "chosen one."

To kick-off the nationwide pursuit, the Hunt invaded SM Megamall where auditionees came in droves. Lipton Ice Tea was a perfect complement to the proceedings since its wholesome persona captivates teeners, college students and young professionals who are fun and extroverted. All these different kinds of personalities were enticed to come out in the open and strut their stuff when the hunt moved on to venues such as Robinsons Place, Bacolod City and Gaisano Mall, Davao City.

In all the hunt's stopovers, applicants to audience members to passers-by were treated to free Lipton Ice Tea. As MTV sets out to choose a new VJ, Lipton was unanimously chosen by most fresh and energetic minds as the cool and refreshing drink to have.

No one was denied the chance to experience this great beverage, including the partygoers who attended the all-night parties that followed each of the hunts. As the search progressed at full speed, it had another pitstop at SM City Manila before reaching its last leg at Lim Ket Kai Mall in Cagayan de Oro City.

So who will be the next MTV VJ? A three-month contract plus a round-trip ticket to visit the MTV Asia studio in Singapore is at stake for the winner. Out of hundreds of auditionees, 10 finalists will be chosen. And out of the top 10, there can only be one. With Lipton Ice Tea, the final party where the winner will be chosen is expected to be a event that can't be missed!

NCCA board rejects Laya resignation; what now?

Week Walkers weepers

COMPILED BY LITO ZULUETA

IN A STUNNING decision, the board of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) rejected this week the resignation of **Jaime Laya** as chair. In a related move, it rejected the election of former Sen. **Leticia Ramos-Shahani** as chair of the Committee on Library by ruling that her committee was illegitimate and recognizing the one headed by library heads of several major universities and institutions.

The decisions have left art and culture circles befuddled. What happened to the much-vaunted Malacañang campaign to install its champions in the commission? Laya resigned because a Malacañang maneuver resulted in the NCCA board booting out **Virgilio Almario** as executive director. The move signaled that the Palace would do everything to have its way in the NCCA, which has elaborate democratic procedures to ensure representation and to minimize petty politicking intruding into arts and culture management.

Laya was not around during the voting and was the most surprised about the outcome. It is said that during the board meeting, **Adoracion Bolos** of the National Library brought out a sheaf of documents to prove that the library committee that voted to make Shahani chair were not members of good standing. She showed that many of the fugitive members had pending court cases against them. Bolos' exhibit proved that legitimacy resides in the committee composed of the librarians of several universities and institutions. Shahani had been elected by the fugitive committee not as a librarian but as a "library user," whatever that means. Chairmanship in the committee was necessary if Shahani were to qualify for a subcommission chairmanship and a seat in the board and thereby get elected as NCCA chair.

Toadies of the world, unite!

NOW that Shahani has been effectively shunted aside, what about those who have played the sycophant's game? Perhaps they have to tidy up their act as parasites and flunkeys.

At the awarding ceremonies of the Art Association of the Philippines, AAP veterans were surprised to see Shahani and former NCCA executive director **Carmen Padilla** as guests of honor. Where was Laya? Apparently, the AAP board led by **Reuben Ramas Canete** did not invite him. Nor did the AAP officialdom invite former AAP presidents to the affair.

AAP old timers were aghast. Why weren't Laya and representatives of the NCCA invited? After all, it was the Laya-led NCCA board that gave generous endowments to the AAP to carry out its activities.

THE SENATOR and the megastar seem to be enjoying themselves. But what about the child?

Tourism basics neglected

THE DEPARTMENT of Tourism is pouring millions to promote the Philippines in a marketing campaign that will hopefully improve the country's share of the tourism pie in the region.

But any public relations campaign must build on solid foundation. DOT officials seem impervious to the fact that basic tourism amenities are in tatters or practically nonexistent. For example, the toilets at the Ninoy Aquino Int'l. Airport are mildewed and dirty. There are janitors in the men's room who hang around with their mops but merely do so to ask, subtly or not too subtly, for tips. But look at the urinals. They're yellow and dusty.

Tourism facilities are more for show than anything else. Look closely and you'll find out they don't operate. Consider the experience of this busload of university students who had just been from Batangas on a retreat and planning session on Oct. 29. When they stopped by the DOT toilet in Santa Rosa, Laguna beside the Philippine National Police Academy, they found the doors locked; there were no utility persons; the place was falling apart and the grass needed a good mowing. *"Ano ito? Props?"* said the irate students.

Garbage terrorism

EXPENSIVE tourism campaigns will also not land the Philippines in the tourist's itinerary as long as Metro Manila continues to suffer from garbage woes that have only become worse and worse by the day.

In Makati, for example, garbage has remained uncollected for weeks now, gathering up to an ugly mass for everybody, including tourists and foreign businessmen, to see and smell. The local government headed by Mayor **Jejomar Binay** seems unaffected by the aggravating crisis, perhaps because the problem is really a reflection on the mismanagement by the Metro Manila Development Authority and the national government.

But something must be done or else, Makati and Metro Manila need not look far to acquire anthrax and other debilitating diseases. They have their own epidemic in the making, with or without terrorists.

Kiko Pangilinan, child abuser?

WILL the megastar please tell her husband, the honorable Sen. **Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan**, to let **Frankie** have a normal infancy? He does not really have to bring Frankie every time and everywhere. Frankie did not really have to go with Dad when he filed a bill for the protection of children. Nor does she have to appear with Dad in those television spots where he talks about his great love and concern for children. And we thought Kiko was going to be a different kind of politician—not the *trapo* type who would kiss babies and proclaim at every opportunity his/her adherence to family values. Besides, all that show biz work can't really be good for Frankie's health. As someone put it, Kiko might be inadvertently violating Frankie's rights by making her "work" this early in her life.

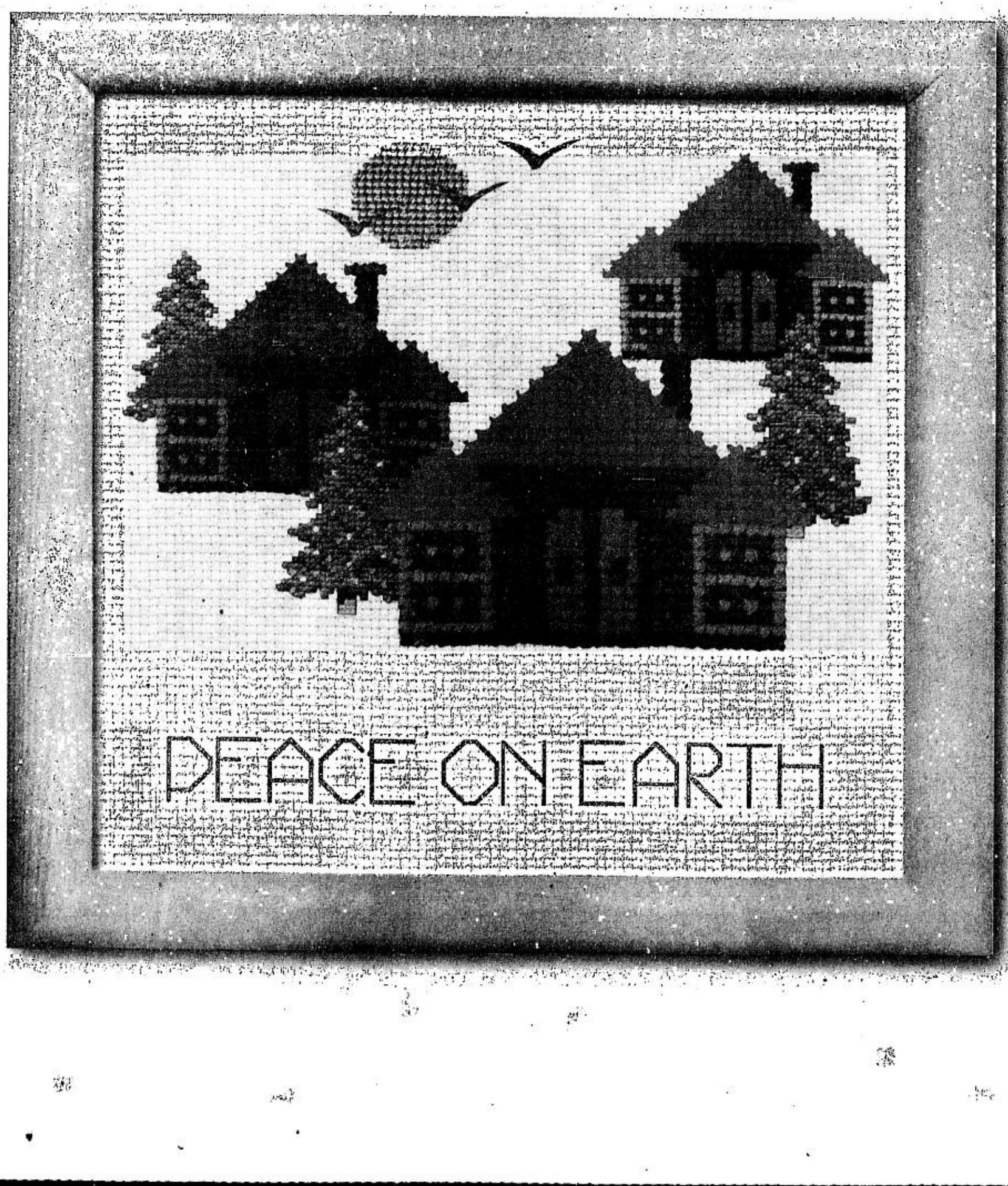
Illicit park

MAKATI and Ayala Centers officials should enforce security in the Greenbelt Park, where a Catholic chapel is also located. Lovers conveniently use the park as a place for smooching from sundown up to late night. Couples are scattered in every dark corner of the park doing their "activities."

One Makati office worker took a shortcut in the park from Landmark to Greenbelt and to her shock, found a man in a dark corner near Italiannis "doing his own thing."

Wrong nominee

MEGA Magazine will soon hold its fashion awards and a designer is not exactly happy he has been nominated. The designer—**Joji Aguilar**—has been nominated as Best RTW Designer, but he doesn't even have an RTW line. Perhaps Mega should first do its homework before releasing the list of nominees because it embarrasses those wrongly nominated. Aguilar said he has been getting endless ribbing for the nomination, which he said somehow suggests he is so desperate for public recognition as to usurp a role that is not his.



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A mom is thankful that her son has been rehabilitated

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I would like to express my gratitude and best wishes to one of the doctors of Lambs Home Care Services, Dr. Noel Reyes, and the owner, Eric Cabali, the nurses and staff, for helping my son Enrique develop again his trust and self-confidence and, most of all, for making him realize the bad effects of drugs. He stayed there for three months and I can attest that there have been considerable and favorable results.

As a mother, I can prove to other mothers who are also experiencing the same problem that we must try to understand and, if possible, entrust your troubled child to a homecare, whose staff can communicate with them and develop their own selves again.

A HAPPY, CONTENTED MOTHER

It seems that there are many addicted to drugs today, if one reads the news about those "imports" and "deliveries" mentioned in the Senate hearings. Lambs Home Care is located at 159 Wilson St. corner Mariano Marcos, San Juan, M.M. Call 725-3665.

Down with cancer

I STILL remember the exact words my doctor told me during my medical check-up last Sunday: "You are now going into liver cirrhosis." Simple words, but now I face the toughest battle—fighting the big "C".

Several years ago I was diagnosed with hepatitis B surface antigen, which about 7 million Filipinos have, according to my doctor. After a year of taking oral medication, I seem not to be responding. I am now out of the 6-10-percent range. I am left with two weapons—Divine intervention and the very costly injectable interferon. Some get beaten hopelessly while others fight to the end. I prefer the latter, even if I know some friends only had a few days when the big C struck them. One patient said, "We will die anyway, it's a definite thing that will happen to our lives." True, but being a person in the allied medical profession, we always make it a point not to teach our patients that we just live simply to die. In fact, we always help improve, if not extend, others' lives, enjoy it, touch someone else's, make a meaning out of it, and probably the best purpose is to serve God by helping others, which I think is the essence of your column.

At this stage in my life, I am playing the other role: someone who needs help because my family is poor. I am praying hard that my present role will be temporary for I love my other role—helping others in the paramedical field. I know I still have a long way to go. I hope I can find a Good Samaritan. A two-week treatment costs P14,600, according to the oncology product specialist. Now, the choice is that treatment, taking it or not, to be treated to extend life, or start my countdown toward the graveyard.

I'm praying hard to extend my life some more. A few years back my case was hopeless, but thanks to advances in science and the pharmaceutical industry the big C can be mabaged. It is just a matter of two things: finance and prayer.

I have no one to turn to, my relatives are poorer than we are. My search for a miracle has just begun and I'm praying I will be heard. I am reminded of Fr. Jerry M. Orbos in his column:

"Disturb us, O Lord,/when with the abundance of things we possess/When we have fallen in love with time/ We have ceased to dream of eternity;/And in our efforts to build a new earth/Have allowed our vision for the New Heaven to grow dim."

I really need a lot of prayers these days. May you help and touch more lives with your column.

KERWIN

More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of, and everything works for the good of those who love the Lord. I know of a lady who got cured of cancer after praying to Our Lady of Manaoag in Pangasinan. Just offer each day to the Lord. If He decides to call you, you will, of course, be in heaven. If you are destined to stay here longer, thank Him for the privilege. Readers who may wish to get in touch with Kervin can call him at 747-4859. His address is 881 Ilang-Ilang St., Ayala Homes, Mandaluyong City.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

GERMAN Moreno giving educational and fun stuff to the children.

KIDS showcase their talents and artistry at Glorietta Activity Center.

GAG collecting gifts for poor kids

GMA Foundation (GMAF) launched recently its Give A Gift: Alay Sa Batang Pinoy 2001 (GAG) Christmas project at the Glorietta Activity Center.

GAG 2001's gift-giving will continue until December and will cover underprivileged children from Abra to Tawi-Tawi, who will receive toys, clothes, books and other educational items, food and personal care products.

Now on its fourth year, GAG incorporates education in its activities through story-reading adopted from GMAF's Karunungan Karavan project.

The three-hour event launching GAG was highlighted by a symbolic gift-giving among GMA personalities and the indigenous children who came all the way from Zambales, Pangipasan and Palawan.

Preprogram activities included on-the-spot drawing, clay molding, Lego construction, shirt-painting and puppet-making contests.

GAG accepts donations of toys, clothes, educational items and health care products for kids 12 years old and below. Empty soda cans and PET bottles are also accepted by GMAF. Coca-Cola Philippines will give coins to kid beneficiaries in exchange for those cans and bottles.

"LOVE is giving, giving is love..." A line from Jaya's song number to the indigenous children

Visit GMA Foundation at Edsa corner 11th Jamboree St., Diliman, QC, tel. 928-5087/7021 local 437/438. Or e-mail wecare @gmanetwork. com or gmaf@gmanetwork.com.

Young celebs grace opening of Iloilo store

THE COUNTRY'S young stars were warmly welcomed by Ilonggos at the opening of Robinsons Department Store (RDS) Iloilo. Jolina Magdangal, Carlos Agassi, Chubi del Rosario, Anne Curtis and Angelika de la Cruz graced the activity-filled three-day launch.

The blessing and ribbon-cutting ceremony was led by special guests Mayor Jerry Treñas, Mayor Raul Tupas (representing his father Gov. Neil Tupas) and Vice Mayor Victor Facultad. Also present were the officers and staff of RDS, Robinsons Supermarket, Handyman and R-Abenson, whose stores were also opened that day. Carlos delighted the crowd with song numbers. Capping the opening day was the mini concert of Jolina.

The next day's activities started with a Mass at Sta. Teresita Church. RDS and RSC, together with Surf, sponsored the mass baptism of 78 babies with Mayor Treñas and Rep. Raul Gonzales standing as symbolic godparents. Each family received gift packs from RDS, Robinsons Supermarket and some suppliers.

In the afternoon, Chubi and Anne's fans' day was held. The young love team delighted their followers with songs and signed autographs. Angelika held a mini concert the following day.

RDS has opened four stores this year: RDS at Waltermart, Gen. Trias, Cavite; Robinsons Metro East, Pasig; Robinsons Place, Novaliches; and Robinsons Place Iloilo. Another branch will soon rise at Robinsons Starmills Pampanga. RDS' other branches are located at Robinsons Galleria; Robinsons Place Manila, Imus, Bacolod, and Cebu; Metropolitan Star Alabang; Starmall Shaw; Waltermart Sta. Rosa; and Tutuban Center.

ILOILO Mayor Jerry Treñas, RDS' Robina Gokongwei-Pe and Robinsons Supermarket GM Ronnie Ong

Go shopping and see the world

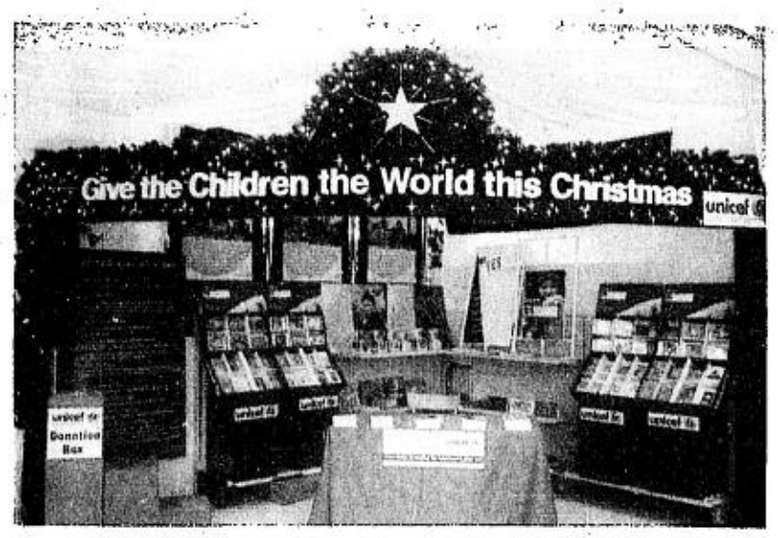
THIS Christmas, Shopwise brings the world to you—a world of value, flavor, fun and magic. Through the store's globally inspired décor—globes, flags, international dolls and children's faces from other countries—shoppers can taste, feel, experience and celebrate the world.

Moreover, they can discover great Christmas buys under one roof. Gifts for her, for him, for kids, for home, for cooks, for gourmets and even for pets. It's the most convenient Christmas shopping destination.

Promotions geared toward children abound in the Toy and Baby Fair until Nov. 15. The Wishing Well gives children the chance to choose a toy from Shopwise for a minimum purchase of P500 from select departments. The Dream Scholar gives parents the chance to win for their children one of three educational plans at stake for a minimum purchase of growing-up milk.

Shopwise Alabang will hold an International Food Fair starting Nov. 17. Cuisines from different continents will be featured on weekends.

In support of the "Say Yes for Children" campaign of the United Nations Children's Fund, Shopwise will have a corner where greeting cards and other merchandise will be sold for the benefit of the UN agency's projects.



The store is also providing a "Small Change for Big Change" donation box where customers can contribute their loose change to the welfare of children.

Shopwise branches are located at the Festival Supermall-Filinvest Alabang and Pasong Tamo corner Vito Cruz Extension, Makati.

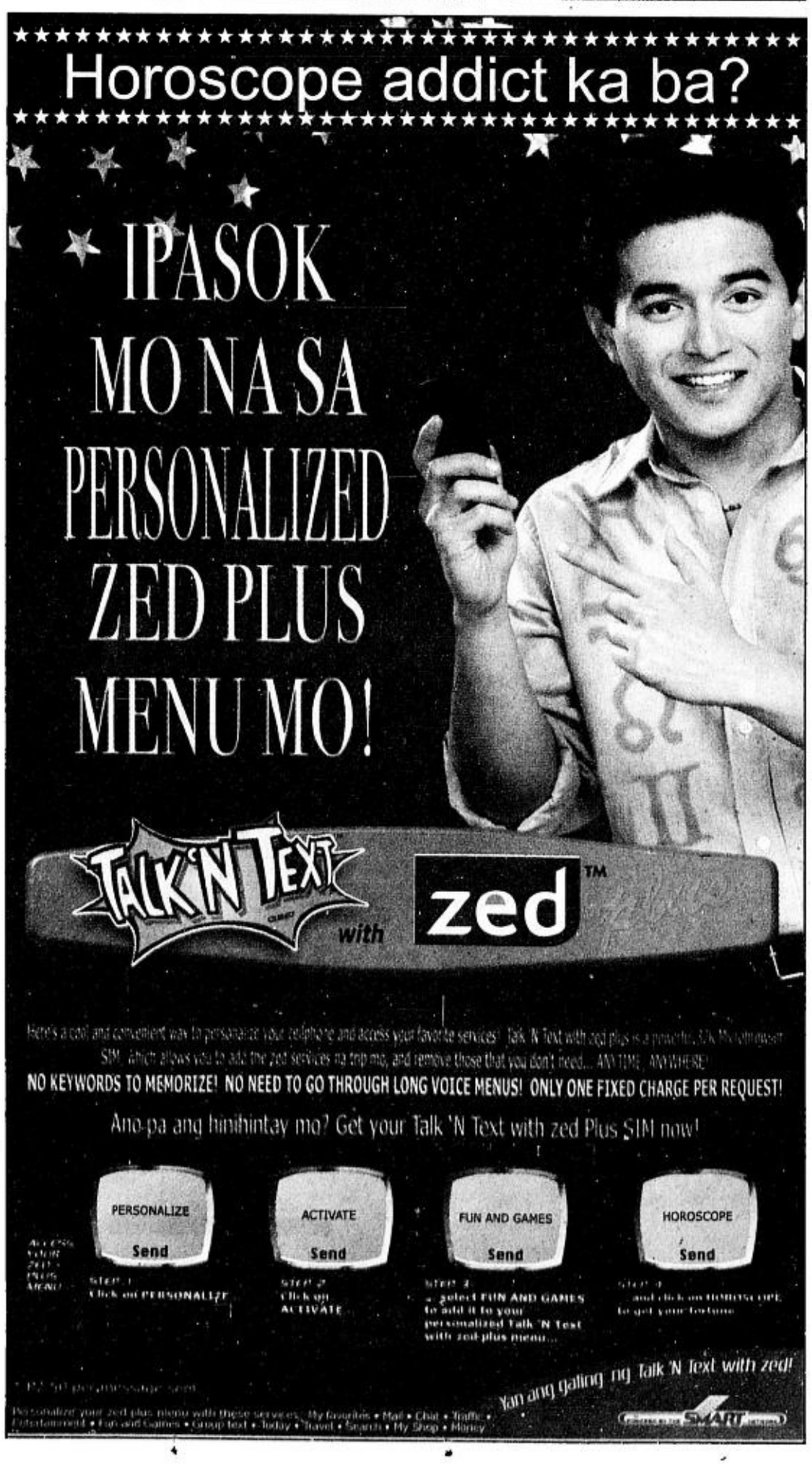
Miss Asia-Pacific candidates visit resto-bar

T.G.I. Friday's welcomed recently a bevy of beautiful ladies in its Glorietta branch. The candidates of Miss Asia-Pacific 2001 dropped by the restaurant to enjoy loads of king-sized fun, food and drinks and even learned a thing or two about bottle-flippin' and drink-tossin' at the bar.

For starters, Friday's friendly bartenders regaled them with sleight-of-hand tricks with the glass and bottle, mixing the women drinks with extra flair. The ladies, entertained by the non-stop action at the bar, joined in the fun and were taught the basics of bar flairing.

During dinner, they were served Friday's American-style dishes like the House Salad, Fish 'N Chips, Friday's BBQ Chicken, Linguine with Bolognese and Ribs. Making sure that they enjoyed their stay at the restaurant were Bistro Holdings marketing manager Therese Reyes, Friday's Glorietta general manager Lilet Martinez, marketing officer Mark Lua and the whole restaurant staff. Aside from Glorietta, its restaurants can also be found in Ortigas, Malate, Quezon City, Alabang and Sta. Lucia East.

THE MISS Asia-Pacific candidates try their hand at bottle-flippin' and drink-tossin' at Friday's.



Women in Travel holds 6th national convention

THE WOMEN in Travel-Manila will hold its sixth national convention at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel on Nov. 9-11.

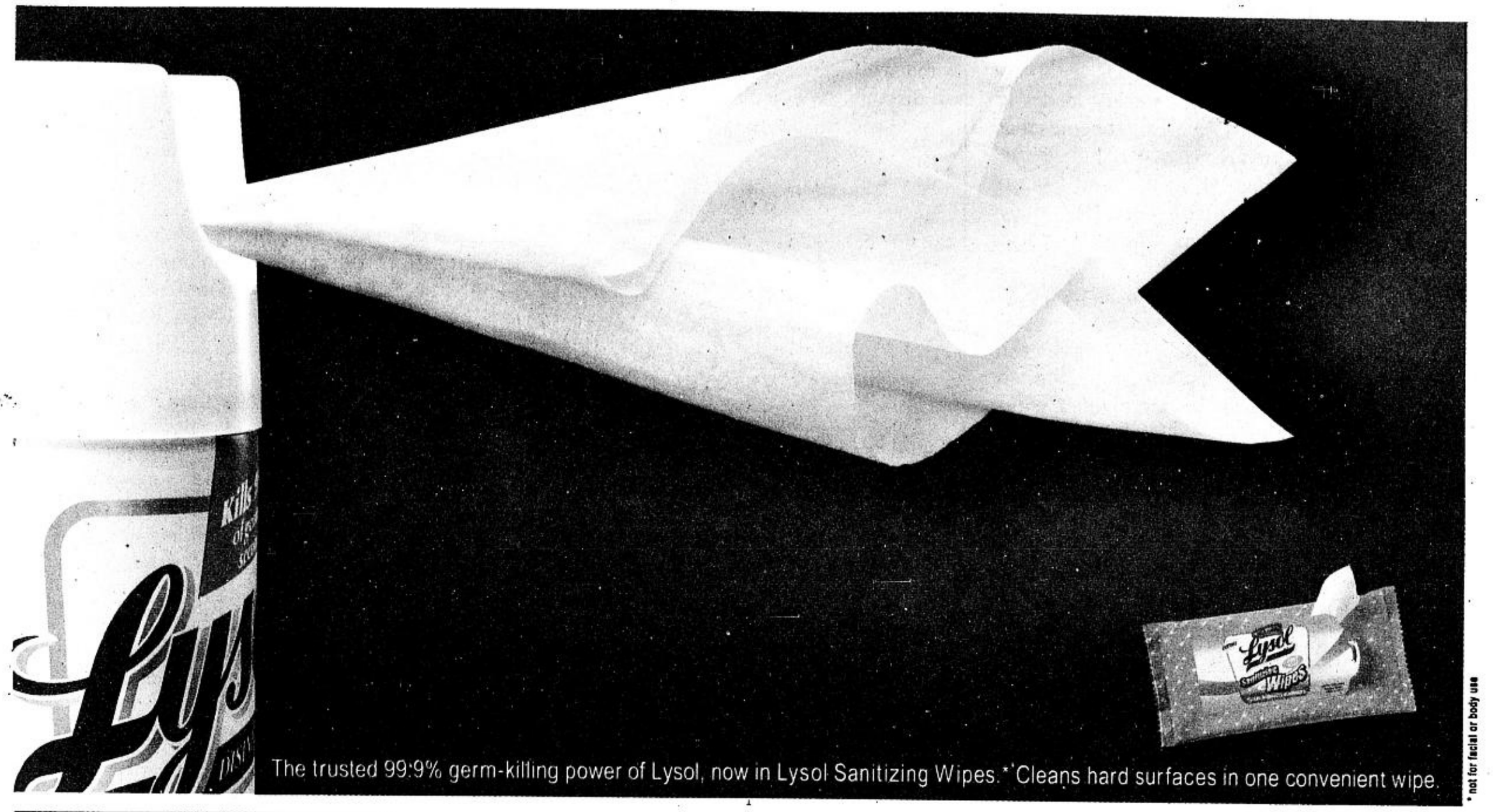
Women in Travel-Manila is an association of females in the travel and tourism industry. Its members are from the airlines, travel agencies, tour operators, hotel and resort operators, tourism consultancy, exhibit organizers, car rentals, restaurants, media and other tourism-related industries.

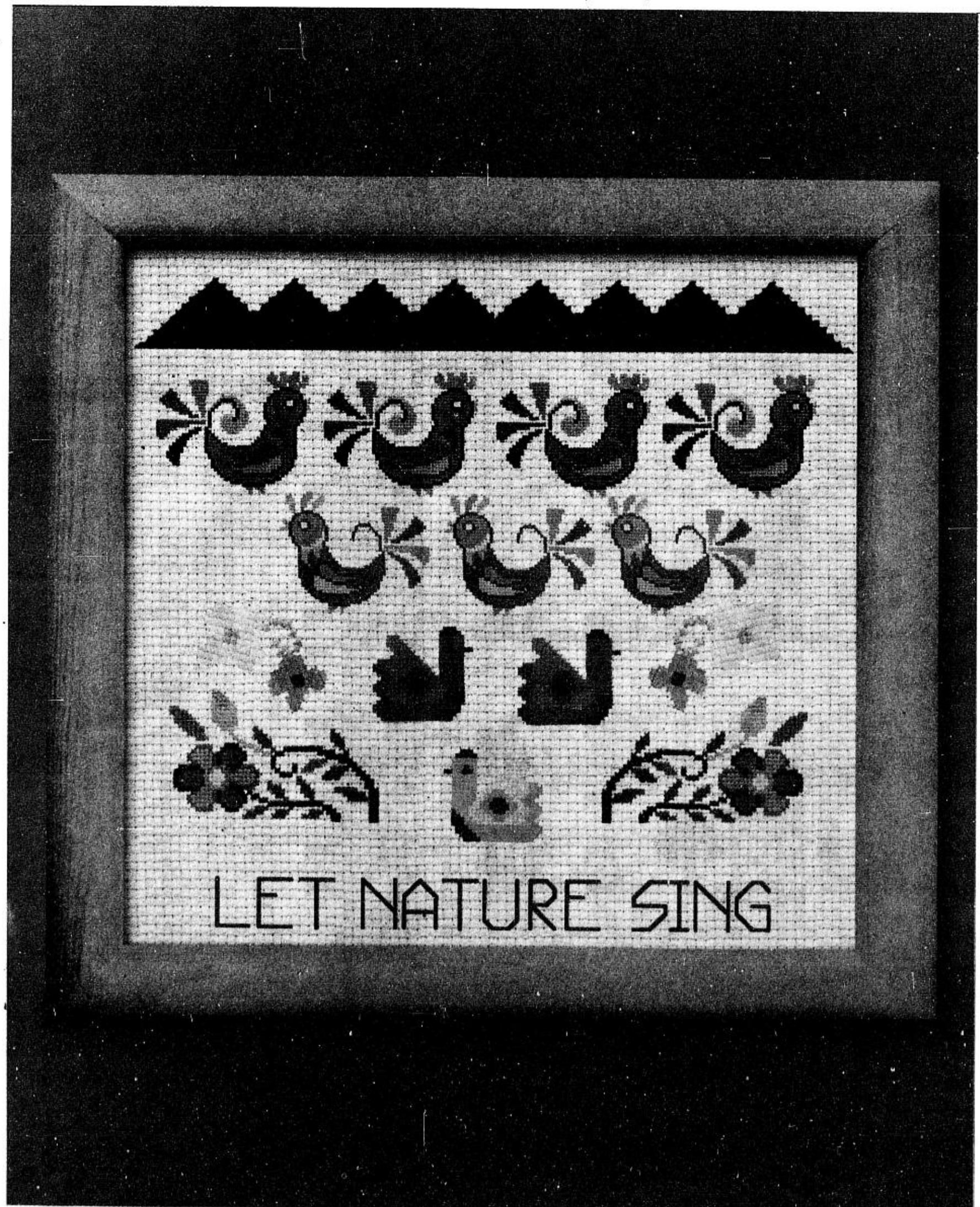
Officers include Annette Feliciano, president; Merle Villacorta, vice president; Luz Reyes, secretary; Lulu Velasco, treasurer; Jo Constatino, auditor; Marilou Romero, international director; Mely Sol, membership director; Emmie Aguirre, PRO; Sonya Garcia, ways and means director; and Carmen Flor, immediate past president.

It has chapters in Bacolod, Cebu, Caraga Region, Davao, Iloilo, Kalibo and Zamboanga. Together, they organized a network called the WIT National Council of Presidents (WNCP). Its members meet twice a year to discuss common projects and activities to enhance the personal and professional growth of its members and how it can assist to promote and develop sustainable and responsible tourism.

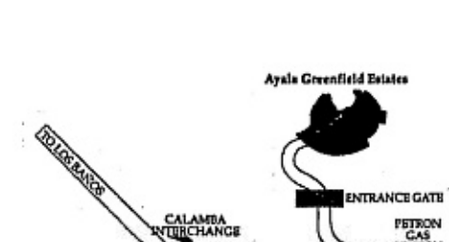
A national convention is held every two years, with each chapter taking turns in hosting the event. This year, WIT-Manila will host the event which carries the theme "Tourism, Fast Forward to Meet the Challenges of the Times."

WIT is affiliated with the International Federation of Women's Travel Organization, a global organization of over 3,500 professional women from 35 countries. It conducts an annual convention held in different venues around the world. Among the conventions attended by the WIT Philippine chapters were held at Budapest, Mexico City, Bali, Richmond, Montreal, Greece and Croatia.





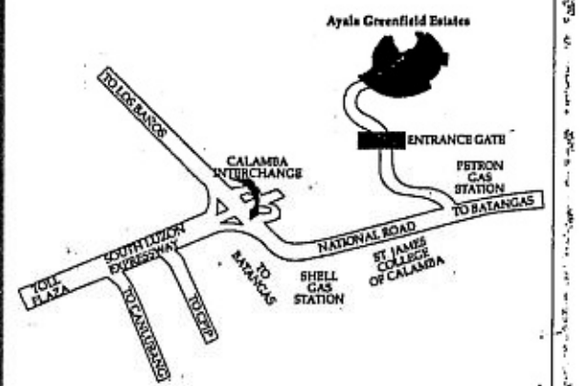
AYALA GREENFIELD ESTATES



AN AYALA SOUTH COMMUNITY

Build your dream house on a prime residential lot overlooking Laguna de Bay, Mt. Makiling and Tagaytay where the magnificence of nature and the most modern amenities come together. With pre-development discounts on our newest phase.

- 10% discount on spot cash payment scheme
- 7% discount on deferred payment scheme



"Home for the Holidays"
Offer until Dec. 31 only. Call 850-6953.

AYALA LAND, INC.

For inquiries, please call the Sales and Marketing Services Group, Ayala Land, Inc., 2/F Tower One, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Ave., Makati City at tel. nos.: 841-5512 to 24. E-mail: msg@ayalaland.com.ph. Website: http://www.ayalaland.com.ph. The particulars, details and visuals shown herein are intended to give a general idea of the project and such are not to be relied upon as statements of fact. While such particulars and details are based on present plans, contents herein are subject to change without prior notice, and do not constitute part of an offer or contract. This advertising is approved and authorized by the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board. HULRB License To Sell Nos.: 00163-RA-00-01 and 02968-R4-01-06

'HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS'

Wonderful deals on Prime Ayala Land Properties

AYALA Land has a special Christmas gift for its buyers. It's a bag filled with discounts for those who aspire to own a piece of prime Ayala property.

Addressing the market's needs as it always does, the real estate industry leader is offering hard-to-resist financing schemes that should enable buyers to make that dream into reality. It's part of Ayala Land's commitment to deliver superior value-for-money products to as wide a market as it can reach.

The special Christmas offering, aptly called "Home for the Holidays," involves lower monthly amortizations and high spot cash discounts – features that make the limited Ayala Land in-house financing scheme really attractive.

With this offer, buyers can avail of significant discounts and easy payment modes to purchase properties in Ayala Land's premium projects such as Ayala Greenfield Estates, Ayala Westgrove Heights, Paseo de Magallanes and Montgomery Place.

Those eyeing Montgomery Place, an exclusive townhouse community near St. Lukes' Hospital in Quezon City, can avail of a new, easier and affordable payment scheme that allow very low monthly amortization payable over 36 months. There is also a 30 percent discount on selected units.

At Ayala Westgrove Heights, buyers are offered a 10 percent pre-development spot cash discount (versus the existing 3 percent) on its newest phase and a 7 percent discount on the deferred payment schemes (versus no discount before). For selected Phase 4 lots, buyers will enjoy a 15 percent discount (versus the existing 3 percent discount) on spot cash scheme and 7 percent on deferred (versus no discount given).

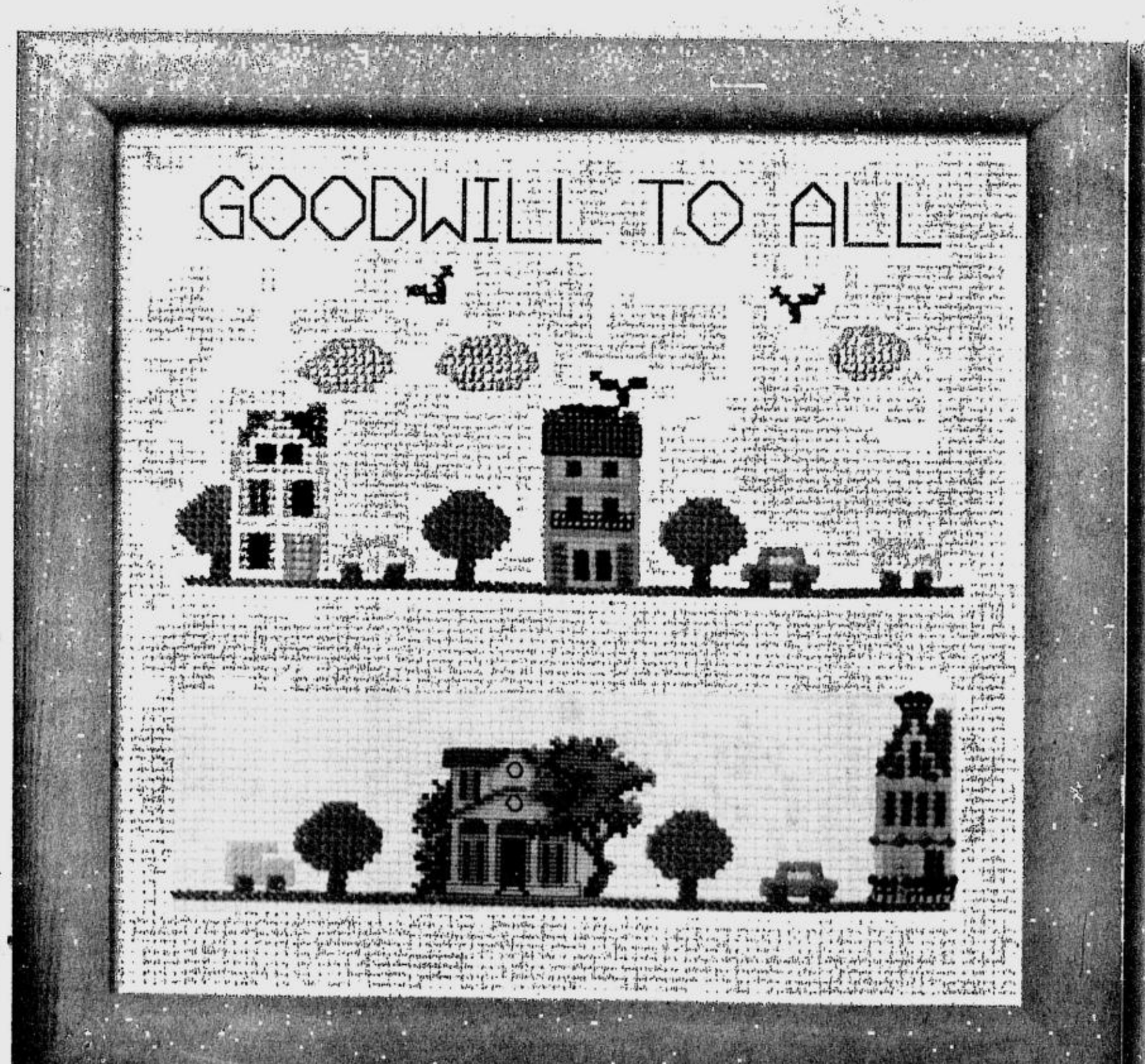
There is definitely something more than the discounts offered in this Christmas financing scheme

Ayala Greenfield Estates is also granting a 10 percent predevelopment spot cash discount (much higher that the current 3 percent) for Phase 2. This prime Ayala subdivision atop a hill in Calamba, Laguna is also offering 7 percent discount on all deferred schemes for Phase 2.

Paseo de Magallanes, on the other hand, is offering a 25 percent discount on all spot cash schemes for selected commercial lots and 20 percent on deferred scheme. This future commercial hub is accessible to both the Makati and Southern residential and business centers being situated at the crossroads of Edsa and South Superhighway.

There is definitely something more than the discounts offered in this Christmas financing scheme. For Ayala Land, it's the goodwill that counts. After all, 'tis the season of sharing and giving.

Take advantage of this special offering that runs until Dec. 30, 2001 only, and grab a piece of Ayala Land now. For more particulars, please call the ALI Sales and Marketing Services Group at 841-5512-24.

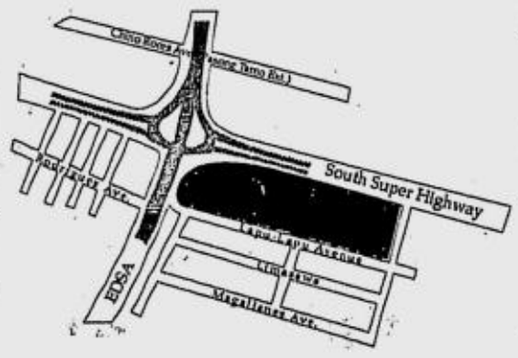


PASEO DE MAGALLANES

COMMERCIAL LOTS

Commercial lots for your future business right at the crossroads of Manila, Pasay and Makati.

- 25% spot cash discount on selected lots
- 20% discount on deferred payment scheme



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ALL TOGETHER NOW. The presidents of (l-r) St. Scholastica, St. Paul's College, Miriam College, College of the Holy Spirit and Assumption College, together with Dr. Cristina Padolina (third from left), sign the MOA.

Sister act

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA
PHOTOS BY JOAN BONDOC

IN MID-OCTOBER, five of the country's top women's colleges launched the Consortium of Women's Colleges (CWC) to help strengthen formal education in the Philippines and to generate more opportunities for their students.

The consortium is the first of its kind in the Philippines. A memorandum of agreement (MOA) was signed at the Filipinas Heritage Library by the presidents of the CWC member-schools: Sr. Josefina Magat of Assumption College, R.A.; Sr. Eufracia Marcojos, SSps, of the College of the Holy Spirit; Patricia B. Licuanan, Ph.D, of Miriam College; Sr. Lilia Therese Tolentino, SPC, of St.Paul College of Quezon City; and Sr. Mary John Mananza, OSB, of St. Scholastica's College.

The MOA allows cross-registration of students in the participating schools beginning the second semester of the current school year. It provides for shared degree programs, sharing of resources (faculty, expertise, facilities), and collaboration among the schools' social action offices to develop

SISTER/ p.E2

Per person on twin sharing basis
₱950+
FEATURE:
•160 well appointed Italian inspired rooms
•Internet connectivity in all rooms
•Non-smoking floors •Swimming Pool
•SPA •ROOFDECK Bar & Grill
•Café Mezz •Scheduled shuttle service to Shopping malls, Golf courses & Airport
Our restaurant, roofdeck bar & grill and function rooms are also open for company and private parties.
EXPRESS CHECK-IN with valet service
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Fax: (632) 899-1415 •E-mail: citygarden@pacific.net.ph
Domestic Toll Free: 1-800-101-GARDEN

UNITY IN SISTERHOOD. Logos of CWC member schools

Sister act

(From page E1)

more projects for the poor, among others.

Why the need for a consortium? Sr. Mary John Mananzan explains "The growing complexity of the society we now live in (has given rise to the need among) us educators…to come together in the spirit of teamwork, partnership and collaboration." She adds "Small colleges like ours are left marginalized and have to depend on our scarce and limited resources to meet our goals of quality and relevant education."

Though the colleges will retain their individual identities, it is hoped that the schools' cooperative efforts will enable them to tap a multitude of resources for the benefit of their students. Although currently co-educational, Miriam College will revert to an all-women college after it graduates its last male students. "This is just the beginning. The best is yet to come," Dr. Licuanan, president of Miriam College, said beaming.

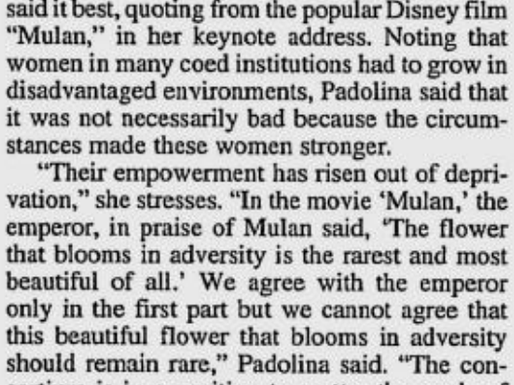
Disadvantaged

Perhaps Commissioner Ma. Cristina Padolina of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) said it best, quoting from the popular Disney film "Mulan," in her keynote address. Noting that women in many coed institutions had to grow in disadvantaged environments, Padolina said that it was not necessarily bad because the circumstances made these women stronger.

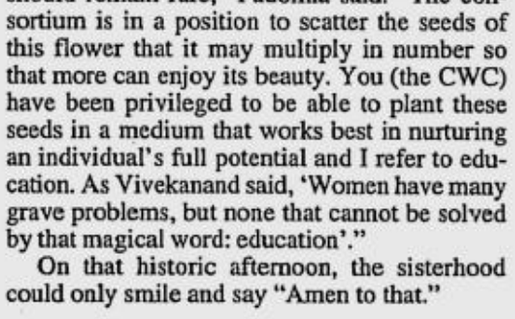
"Their empowerment has risen out of deprivation," she stresses. "In the movie 'Mulan,' the emperor, in praise of Mulan said, 'The flower that blooms in adversity is the rarest and most beautiful of all.' We agree with the emperor only in the first part but we cannot agree that this beautiful flower that blooms in adversity should remain rare," Padolina said. "The consortium is in a position to scatter the seeds of this flower that it may multiply in number so that more can enjoy its beauty. You (the CWC) have been privileged to be able to plant these seeds in a medium that works best in nurturing an individual's full potential and I refer to education. As Vivekanand said, 'Women have many grave problems, but none that cannot be solved by that magical word: education'."

On that historic afternoon, the sisterhood could only smile and say "Amen to that."

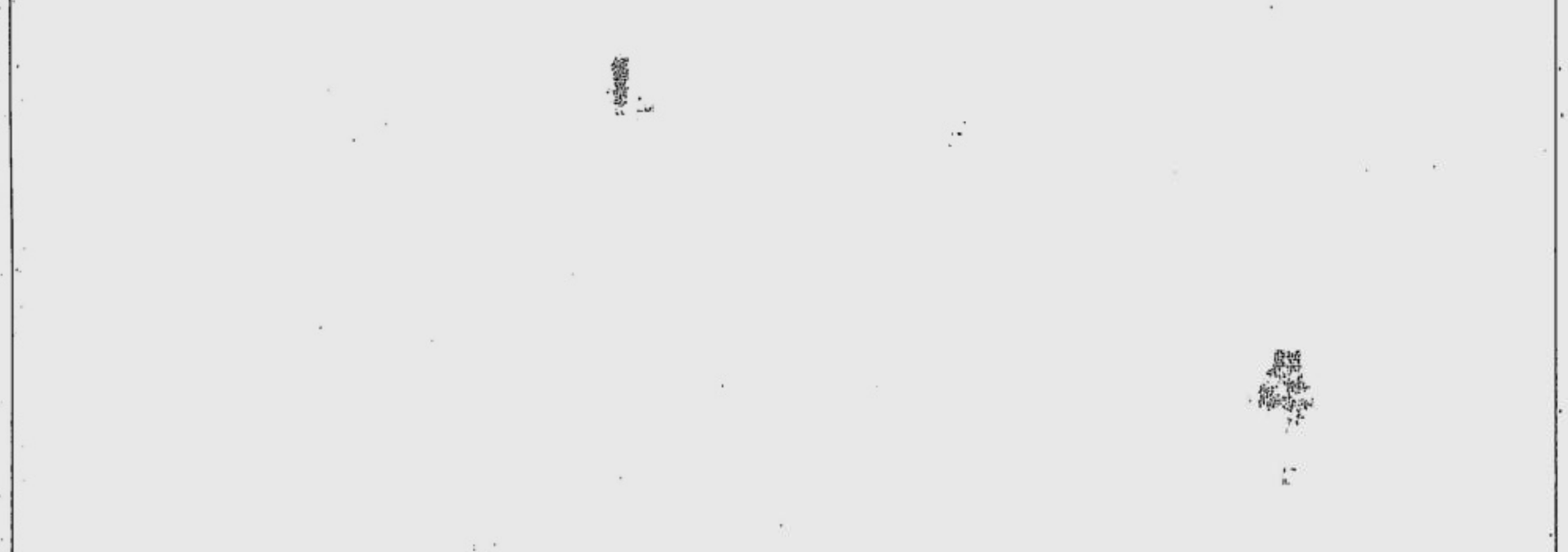
E-mail the author at cbguballa@-inquirer.com.ph



MARIXI Prieto beams with approval.



DR. Cecile Gutierrez, VP-Academic Affairs of St. Scholastica's College, and NCCA chair Jaime Laya laud the signing.



Miriam College inaugurates First Step

THE CHILD Study Center of Miriam College inaugurated its First Step Program recently. "First Step" is a readiness program for 3-year-old preschoolers.

The CSC First Step program utilizes specific manipulative materials, equipment and furniture that are safe, nonviolent, stimulating and gender sensitive. The program also provides constructive play opportunities that inspire active learning among children.

The schedule allows plenty of time for active movement and flexibility to deal with the natural curiosity and changing energy levels and moods of the children. It channels the child's bursting energy into constructive learning, providing meaningful experiences that facilitate the development of creative and highly motivated learners. The highly competent and creative teachers and staff of CSC First Step strongly believe in home and school partnership. "As the home lights the candle of life, the child's school keeps it burning and raging high."

Call 927-2421 to 29, local 228, 229 or 213; telefax 435-9235 or visit our website at http://www.mc.edu.ph.

TEACHER Mobsy Carino with the first batch of CSC First Step students

Father Corsie celebrates 25 years of healing

THE PINAGPALANG Kamay Healing Ministry (PKHM) celebrates 25 memorable years of healing by Father Corsie, the healer priest from the Diocese of Imus, on Nov. 11.

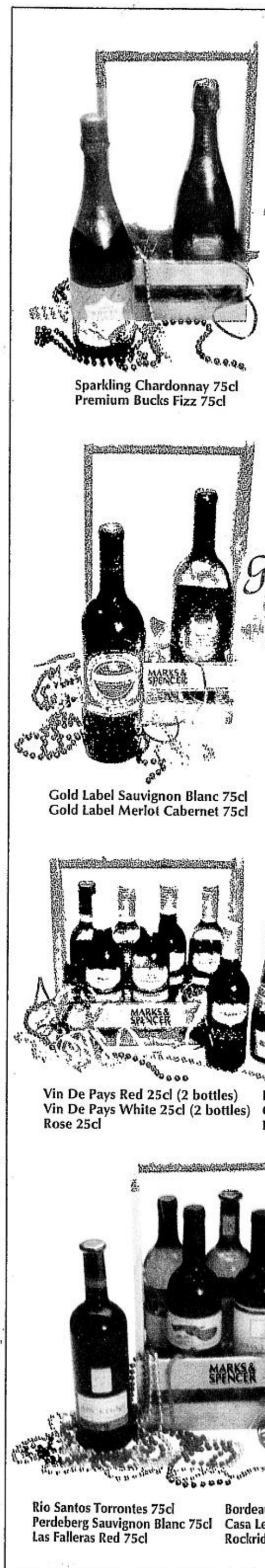
In accordance with tradition, PKHM will sponsor a healing rally to thank the Lord for successes during the year. Healing Rally 2001 will be held at the Cuneta Astrodome, Pasay City, at 1 p.m. Admission is free.

This year's rally revolves around the theme "Mahaba ang Kamay ng Diyos," in recognition of the fact that God's merciful hand reaches beyond human boundaries to reach people and heal them.

Six former patients will speak of their healing. Leading movie and television personalities, under the direction of Maryo J. Delos Reyes, will also perform. Jake Tordesillas supervised the writing of scripts for the event.

Fr. Alain Manalo and Bro. Arnel Carino are guest speakers. A choir under the supervision of Fr. Larry Faraon will sing inspirational songs.

The program will be followed by a procession inside the Astrodome in honor of Mary, Health of the Sick, which will end with her enthronement at the altar, a eucharistic celebration of the Mass, and a healing session for the sick.



ADVENTURES in Science and Math: "Science for Active Learning," "High School Physics" and "Realistic Math"

SIBS has been studying ways to integrate reading with what kids love doing, making some books accessible through the Net

SCIENCE, English and Pilipino books: "The Natural World," "Milestones in Reading" and "Saligan"

Fashioning ways to make kids read

BY ROWENA C. BURGOS
PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

FASHION has been Carla Sibal's medium for self-expression. It has been her weapon in her drive for corporate success.

But since her father Jesse died last year, Sibal has taken on a new role, which has taken her away from her duties at her own Sibal Design Inc. She is now the vice president for corporate affairs of SIBS Publishing House Inc..

SIBS was established by Sibal's dad as a spin-off of Phoenix Publishing, the company started in 1958 by her grandfather and which is now managed by her late father's sisters.

With her stepmother, Mimette, who acts as president, Sibal continues the legacy of her father and grandfather: publishing books for private grade schools and high schools that are Filipino in context and patronizing Filipino educators and authors.

Among Sibal's duties as vice president is to make sure that the company's objectives are achieved within the target time frame. She attends meetings and reports the results to her stepmom.

Sibal, despite her work at SIBS and Sibal Design Inc., finds time to pursue a postgraduate course on entrepreneurship at the Asian Institute of Management. "This is why I could easily relate to management problems. I didn't find it difficult to shift from fashion designing to handling a publishing business. It happened at the right time," Sibal says.

CARLA Sibal

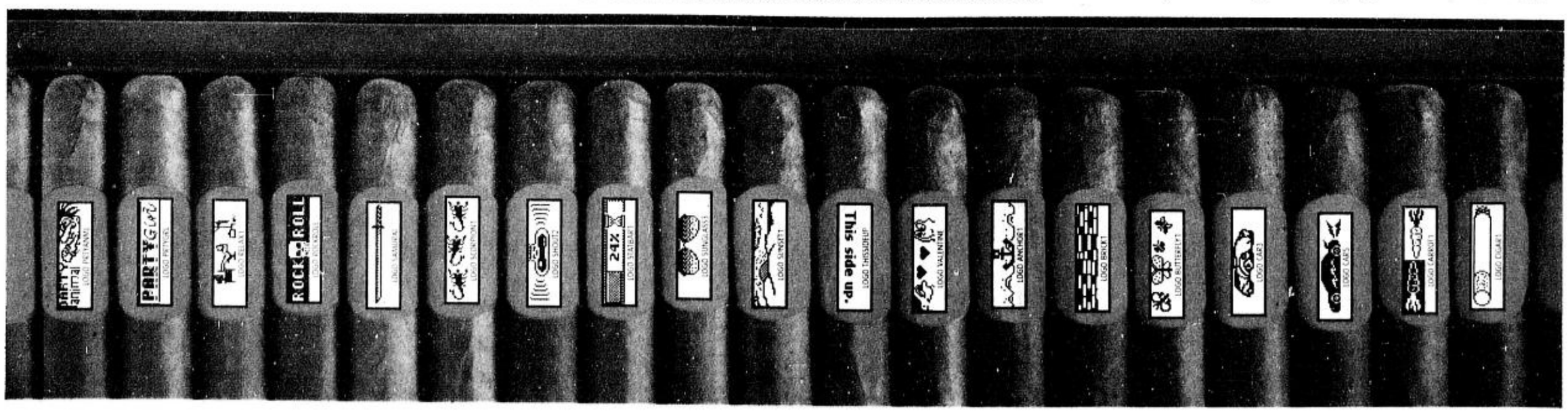
New publications

SIBS Publishing House Inc. kicks off its preparation for school year 2002-03 with the release of more than 50 book titles. Through the textbook

FASHIONING/ p.E5

LANGUAGE series: "Filipino sa Bagong Siglo," "I Can Use English in Working with Others" and "I Can Understand and Speak English"

NEW reading and math series: "Reading Network," "Learning My ABCs," "Ready for Reading and Language" and "Realistic Math"



series, SIBS hopes to enrich the curricula in Reading, English, Filipino, Science, Mathematics and Social Studies in the preschool, grade school and high school levels.

Reading teachers will likely find useful innovative teaching strategies in "Milestones in Reading" and the "Reading Network" series. "Milestones in Reading" (Nursery-Grade 7) sets new trends in reading with lessons that follow the multiple intelligences principle. It also introduces the word bank, which aims to build the pupils' word power, aids in oral speech development and instills the habit of consulting the dictionary for word meanings.

On the other hand, "Reading Network" (Grades 1-6) has comprehension exercises based on the students' background knowledge. It develops specific reading skills using interactive devices, applies communicative competence principles and promotes higher-level thinking.

SIBS has restructured the service area assignments of its textbook advisors to be able to reach a greater number of schools and more efficiently respond to their needs in terms of product selection and evaluation and textbook adoption.

A series of seminars on how to effectively use SIBS' published titles will be held featuring an impressive lineup of speakers and facilitators.

It has been noted that Filipino children do not read as much as before because of the strong influence of television, computers, radio and other

SIBS Publishing House's art department

electronic gadgets, which eat up so much of their free time.

Even Sibal's 7-year-old son Mito is not fond of reading books. "My dad used to bribe him with dollars so he'd just finish a book in a week, for instance. Children, like my son, who prefer watching TV or playing computer games to reading books, are what inspire SIBS to exert great effort in meeting them halfway."

She adds, "This is why SIBS has been studying ways to integrate reading with what kids love doing. So we made some of our books more accessible through the Net." SIBS' website is www.sibs.com.ph.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

Where did the load on my prepaid card go?

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

CELLULAR phone users are not only griping about shrinking free texts, delayed calls and messages, customer service and quiz games. Prepaid card woes are on the top list of complaints these days.

For example, a Smart customer <harabas@my.smart.com.ph> complained: "My prepaid credit decreases faster, but my use of my cel s limited, what 2 do?"

But that's only the tip of the iceberg, so to speak. We've been receiving similar gripes that include the following signature campaign against Globe (again!) on the e-mail, a chain of complaints with 97 signatures as of the latest.

"I just loaded P250 worth on my card two hours ago. Now it's down to P140 and I haven't made a single call nor text message. My friend's card skidded down from a little over P360 to P30! Our repeated calls to customer service hotline are always answered with the same promise: 'I will refer it to the technical department'."

From Angelica Amorado of Davao City, a Globe customer: "When I reloaded my prepaid card worth P250, the voice prompt told me that my current balance was P301 and that included credit from my previous load. I made one call and sent text to two persons. I couldn't text the following day. Why? My balance had gone down to P50! I tried to revalidate my balance and was told it was P42.50. I immediately complained and was told that the case will be referred to the Manila office."

Carlos Richard B. <crab_mann@yahoo.com> wants to know why it is taking so long for Globe to respond to the complaint he sent months ago. He wrote: "At about 1 p.m. on April 23, I couldn't load a P500 prepaid card. When I checked it out with the Globe branch at Ayala Triangle, it appeared that the card was already loaded to another Globe line. I concluded it was a system error on Globe's part." And, hence, Globe should only see to it that he gets a refund, or at the very least, an explanation of what really happened.

More complaints

K. Parcon of Bacolod City applied for a plan subscription for her new Globe cellular phone and was told it would take only three days to approve the line. It actually took seven days. "I had to return to the store several times before I finally got my phone. I wasted my time, money and effort going back to that store, which should have been avoided if the salepeople in that store were honest enough."

Mike Fernandez complained about the Nokia 3310 he bought last month. He related, "It was only recently when I found out that the 6-21-01 version I purchased is not capable of sending 'forwarded' ring tones to other phones. I have to compose the tone myself before I can send it. My question is, is this new version custom-made for a particular company, so that this company can earn P25 for every forwarded ring tone?"

This complaint was sent by Virgie and Clarisse S. <vsaldajeno@pacific.net.ph>: "I am a pediatric intensive care physician who is on call 24 hours a day. I am unhappy to report that my work has been badly affected by the deteriorating service of cellular phone companies. Frequent dropped calls and failed outgoing calls have put the lives of my patients at grave risks. Just recently, an urgent call I made to a hospital was cut off four times in a 15-minute period. I, and at least four of my colleagues, are planning to switch to another company."

This is a query for Bayantel. A. Uytiepo is asking, "How come the Bayantel telephone service is also down when there's a brownout? The main reason we have a telephone line is for emergency situations, but our phone is also out of order during typhoons, floods and brownouts."

Delivery service

IN THE LAST issue, we wrote about the complaint of Dr. K. H. Go about the delayed money transmittal by LBC Forwarding Services. We got this e-mail from an LBC employee asking Dr. Go for the sender's telephone number and the LBC official receipt covering the transaction. Dr. Go can send us the needed information, and we will forward it to the concerned LBC employee.

While we're on the subject of delivery service, here's a query from Mark <markfreak@edsamail.com.ph>. We don't know the answer, so we are passing it on to the concerned authorities.

The letter sender wrote: "I ordered about six textbooks from BN.com, an online bookstore. I had the books sent through UPS Express Delivery. When these were delivered, UPS charged me about P800-900 per book for custom duties. Isn't there a law that exempts education books from taxes? I called UPS customer service only to be informed that the exemption did not mean that I wouldn't have to pay anything.

"Moreover, I was told that next time I order textbooks online, I had to write a letter to a customs officer requesting for textbook tax exemption, and have the letter forwarded to UPS. I wonder if I will be charged the same taxes if I had the textbooks sent by regular Philpost mail?"

PLDT explains

V. MACALINO wrote to thank PLDT for acting on his complaint about customer service. As a result of his complaint, the erring PLDT clerk resigned. "I did not expect her to do that. In this time of hardship and lack of job opportunities, I feel I have deprived her of a source of income," Macalino wrote us. He requested PLDT to reinstate the person.

Here's a reply from Rosalie Montenegro, PLDT senior vice president and head of multichannel contact center: "We appreciate your genuine concern about the untimely resignation of the employee. However, she was a contractual employee with a fixed term of employment. It may interest you to know that at the time of the incident, her contract was about to expire. In addition to this, she resigned on her own volition.

"I hope you understand why we cannot reinstate said employee since she was not a permanent employee. Thank you for your kind words about our staff who tried to make it up to you."

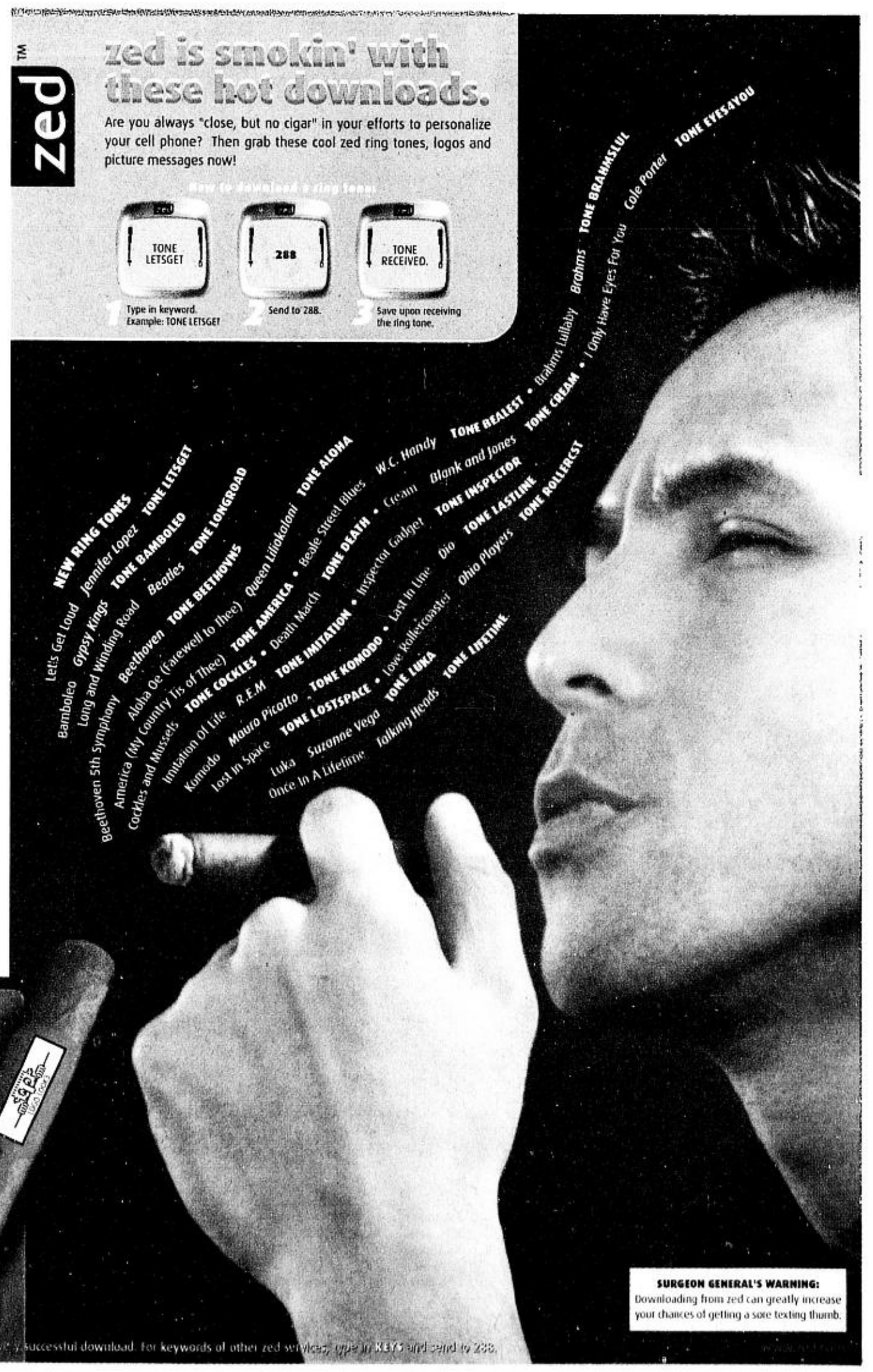
Finale to cable woes

TO ALL those who continue to send their gripes about Sky and Home Cable service, please send your letters instead to the One-Stop Public Assistance Center of the National Telecommunications Commission on BIR Road, East Avenue Triangle, Diliman, QC. Or, call Danny Cuenca of Ospac for advice at tel. 926-7722.

After this final letter from J. de la Cruz <epistrophy@edsamail.com.ph>, we will forward all complaints against Sky and Home Cable to Ospac.

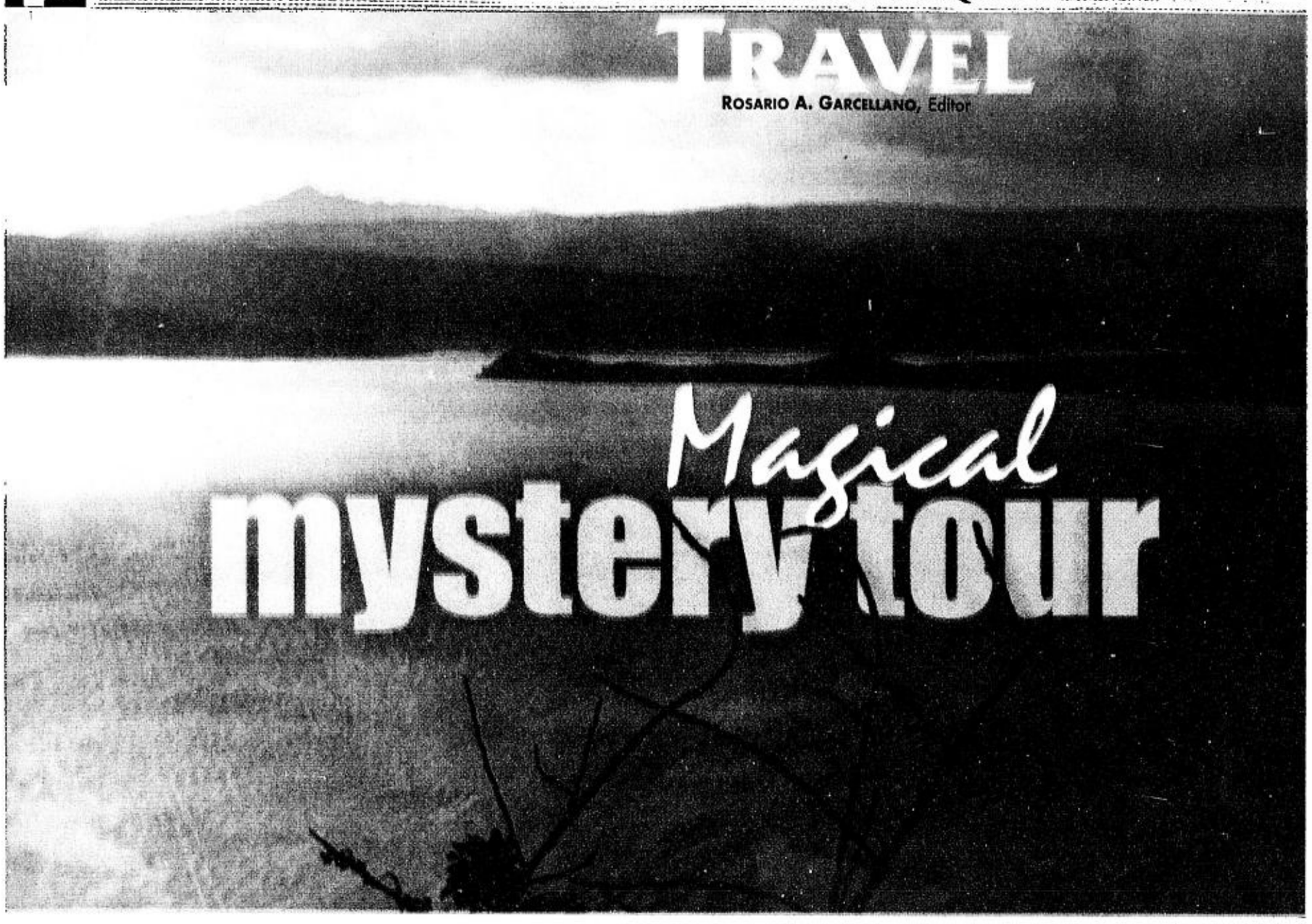
De la Cruz begged us to print his letter. He wrote: "SkyCable is telling its subscriber now that it will have to remove majority of its channels if they give in to the Star Group's demands. Oh, no! Please, please, do not remove the Hindi, Japanese, Chinese, whatever channels, all those foreign channels that I grew to love... Please, for the love of god, do not remove those channels. I'd rather watch those than ESPN, National Geographic, channels carried by Star Group."

E-mail the author at mariettagiron@hotmail.com or mgiron@csi.com.ph



TRAVEL

ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO, Editor



Magical mystery tour

BY LELISA L. SEMAÑA

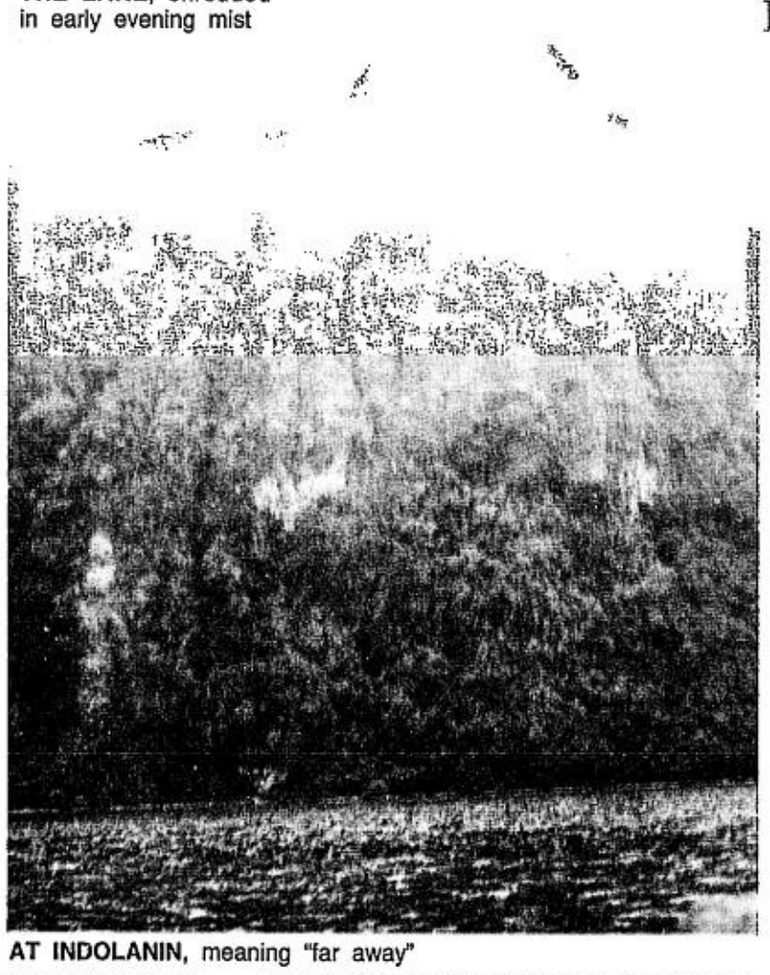
MUCH has been written about Taal Lake and its islands, especially Taal Volcano. Movies, even postcards, have been made with the famous lake as setting or background. But all of these show the scenery as viewed from the Tagaytay ridges when there is something much, much more awesome in terms of not only the breathtaking sight but also the feelings it generates.

The side facing Batangas and particularly the spots along the shoreline of the municipalities of Cuenca and Alitagtag at the foot of Mt. Makulot show a mass of rocks as well as a powerful mountain guarding the lake's mysteries. Thus, on this side of the lake one can: gaze one's fill of the lake, immerse oneself in its waters and its mysteries, enjoy the endless romance of the rocks and the waves, and unwind in a mountain hideaway.

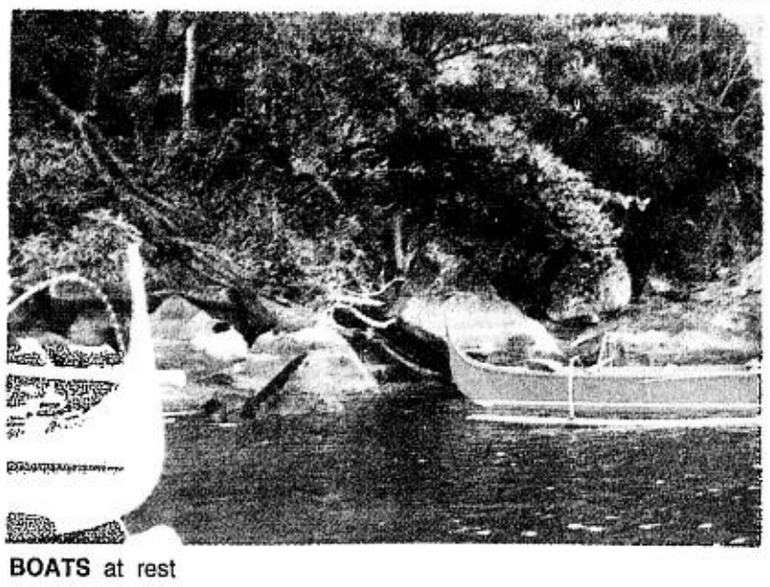
Let's embark on a "mystery trip" via Batangas.

Although each of the 11 municipalities bordering Taal Lake has an individual access, the ideal route is through several barangays of Lipa City bounding Cuenca. The entry point is Barangay Pinagtungulan, which is reached by turning right about seven kilometers from the city proper along the National Highway to Lemery. The trip takes about five kilometers of paved road that gradually snakes down, with the last kilometer marked by sharp turns and steep slopes. At this point, one is rewarded with a picture-pretty overview of the lake.

The journey ends in a wide stretch of beach in Barangay Tagbakin, where vehicles are parked and boats are hired for rides into the lake or the communities along the shoreline.



THE LAKE, shrouded in early evening mist



BOATS at rest

Another world

The 40-minute banca ride transports one to another world and time. As the boat slices through the crystal waters, diamond drops provide a cool spray and the waters alternate between sapphire blue and emerald green, satin-smooth and frothy.

The panorama unfolds with Mt. Makulot looming over the lake, as mysterious as the lake itself.

The sight of the blue sky, lush vegetation, wild forest growth, rolling golden hills, towering rock formations and fishing villages stretch on and on as the boat sails through the wind.

But farther on, the villages and beaches disappear from view. Only the blue sky, the lush greenery, the emerald waters reaching out to the rocks and the rushing wind fill the senses. Soon everything else ceases to exist except oneself and the unseen Presence.

And then the boat docks at the most unique spot called Indolanin, which means "far away." Here in all its splendor is the spot many tourists call the most beautiful in the world. The mountain view, which is breathtaking from the distance, is magnificent up close.

> Legend tells of white horses roaming the forest during a full moon, of buried treasure guarded by spirits

Tucked at the foot of Mt. Makulot, Indolanin is uninhabited and truly isolated from the small communities. Boulders of all sizes and shapes line the shore, allowing only very short stretches of sandy beach.

The towering mountain lords it over Indolanin, and the rocks soar to the sky.

By night the lake becomes "a playground where moonlight dances to secret music." The moon balances itself on the horizon and its fullness pours radiance over the night and "bathes the whole world in liquid gold," turning the lake to "golden shimmering satin."

In this sanctuary removed from the hustle and bustle of the city, unsettling thoughts are momentarily forgotten. One is lulled by the cadence of the waves and the sounds of the forests, and sleep comes unbidden.

And to awaken to the same beautiful world at the break of dawn is sheer ecstasy. One harks to the sigh of the waves gently breaking on the rocks and the clean scent of the earth. Again the invigorating breeze from the lake envelops the body. It's truly a new day.

Secrets

From Indolanin, a 20-minute banca ride takes us to the next blessed spot.

This is the first sitio of the neighboring town of Alitagtag. Here, the sight of the rocks is even more stupefying, even more mysterious. Again, cathedral-like walls of rocks stand like sentinels along the shore. The vista of granite and marbled rocks reaching for the sky and the dense forest growth bring once more the feeling of wonder.

One can only stop, stare and assess the reality of the creamy marble and glossy black peaks dominating earth and sky, the ragged lines of rocks thrust out of emerald waters, creating vast cliffs and ravines.

Some of the rocks bear ridges scarred and carved by centuries of exposure to elements. Who can tell what secrets these hide?

No one has scaled those rocks, no one has fathomed the waters' depths. Some say there are traces of a village sunk by the volcano's eruption. Some attest to seeing an intact portion of a church sunk deep.

Legend tells of white horses roaming the forest during full moons. Of the dome of the ancient church visible in the crystal waters. Of buried treasures guarded by spirits.

Deep in the bosom of the lake and in the bowels of the towering pillars lies the truth. One can only gaze, wonder—and believe in an unseen Creator. For who but a Supreme Being can offer such gifts?

Can that be the image of God etched in a mural of immeasurable proportions and incredible colors? Or is it the silhouette of the Madonna offering her child to the pious? Does the awesome rock formations, dressed in amber, coral and jade, give the semblance of a woman in prayer?

And as though in a spell, one feels a slow seeping of peace and tranquility, a freeing of the spirit.

Ascending about 20 steps into the foothills, one detects the smells and sounds of the lake blending with the aroma of the earth, the hum of the insects and the muted birdsong. The splendor of both the lake and the mountain brings a joyful balm to the soul. The feeling of closeness to the Creator deepens.

Now, as the sun rises higher, the light glimmers on the small waves that break, not on a sandy shore, but on the rocks. How appropriate are the words of the famous author: "Without the rocks, the wave would spend itself quietly on the shore, never finding a way to transform its smooth perfection into a fierce explosion of beauty." Yes, all those lovely phrases belong to my lake and its rocks—the rocks that "savor the wave's gentle kiss" but welcomes the explosion of bigger, violent ones. Black stones lie below and above the water to mate with the waves that "smash and create cataracts while burying some parts in creamy froth."

Wild beauty

As the day wears on, the lake rolls in untamed waves crashing into "wild explosion of beauty."

The sunlight begins to slant and deepen into late afternoon, and the whole haven lies in burnished splendor. The sun "sets fire to the serene face" of the lake, which suddenly turns into burning gold.

Immersed in the beauty of the place, one loses track of time and hardly notices dusk creeping in and enveloping the lake and the mountain in a shroud of mist. One by one, the fishermen in their boats turn on their lamps, and almost simultaneously thousands of tiny lights blink from far-off Tagaytay.

In the magic of these moments a cool breeze lifts from the lake and one is cleansed of boredom, weariness, even despair.

One feels and sees God in this haven. And feeling His presence brings one closer to Him, even one with Him.

SERENITY on a mountain trail

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Residential units

FRASER Place Serviced Residences officially opens its doors to expatriates and business travelers in February.

The twin-tower development project, located in the heart of Makati City, is managed by the local subsidiary of the Singapore-based Fraser Serviced Residences Pte. Ltd.

Clients are offered a hassle-free stay in a Fraser suite, whether short-term or long-term. Aside from cutting-edge residence provisions like state-of-the-art communications, entertainment and business choices, residents will also experience such comforts as personalized room services and regular shuttle bus service to Makati's top shopping, dining and entertainment establishments.

For more information, call 818-1818 or 818-4747, fax to 818-3838, e-mail dos@fraserhospitality.com.ph or visit www.fraserhospitality.com.

Airline award

EMIRATES has been named Best Scheduled Airline by readers of The Telegraph, Britain's biggest-selling paper.

The Dubai-based international airline was chosen winner of the paper's Travel Awards 2001, toppling Singapore Airlines from the No. 1 spot. Virgin Atlantic came in third.

The citation comes on the heels of a similar award won by Emirates last month, when readers of leading British consumer travel magazine Business Traveller named it Best Medium Haul Airline 2001.

Emirates flies six times a week between Dubai and Manila, and up to six times a day between Dubai and the United Kingdom (three to Heathrow, and one each to Gatwick, Birmingham and Manchester).

From its Dubai base, it serves 56 cities in 39 countries in Europe, Middle East, Africa and Asia.

Getaway

TAKING the family to an overnight treat? Choose any day of the week and enjoy Punta Baluarte's "Getaway Advantage." The promo is valid until Dec. 20.

For P1,500 net for two persons on a weekday and P2,750 net for two persons on a weekend, guests can avail themselves of overnight accommodations with free breakfast for two, complimentary use of fresh-water and salt-water swimming pools, and one-hour use of tennis court or horseback riding and game room.

For group reservations, audio-visual equipment and other support facilities are available. The resort's lush, tropical landscape makes it ideal for outdoor group dynamics, team-building activities, camping and sports activities. Groups of 20 to 350 can be accommodated.

For reservations, visit the Punta Baluarte Makati office at the 5th floor, Enzo Bldg., or call 899-4546 or 899-4550.

Spa on board

FROM AEROBICS and kick-boxing classes to "European-style" facial and body treatments, one will find an exciting variety of choices in the "Body Beautiful Spa" health and fitness center aboard the new, 88,500-ton Carnival Pride, which makes its debut on Dec. 30.

The two-level spa features large picture windows that provide spectacular views of the sea. It includes an aerobics studio, where instructor-led fitness classes, such as low- and high-impact and step aerobics, stretching and muscle-building sessions and kick-boxing classes, will be offered. Personal trainers will also be on hand.

The gym is fully equipped with modern exercise machines, including stationary bicycles, treadmills, and rowing, stair-climbing and Life Fitness pneumatic progressive resistance machines.

Guests can also indulge in one of the spa's many exotic "European-style" therapeutic treatments, such as the "aroma stone therapy," full-body and scalp massages, seaweed wraps, mud packs and slimming and toning therapies.

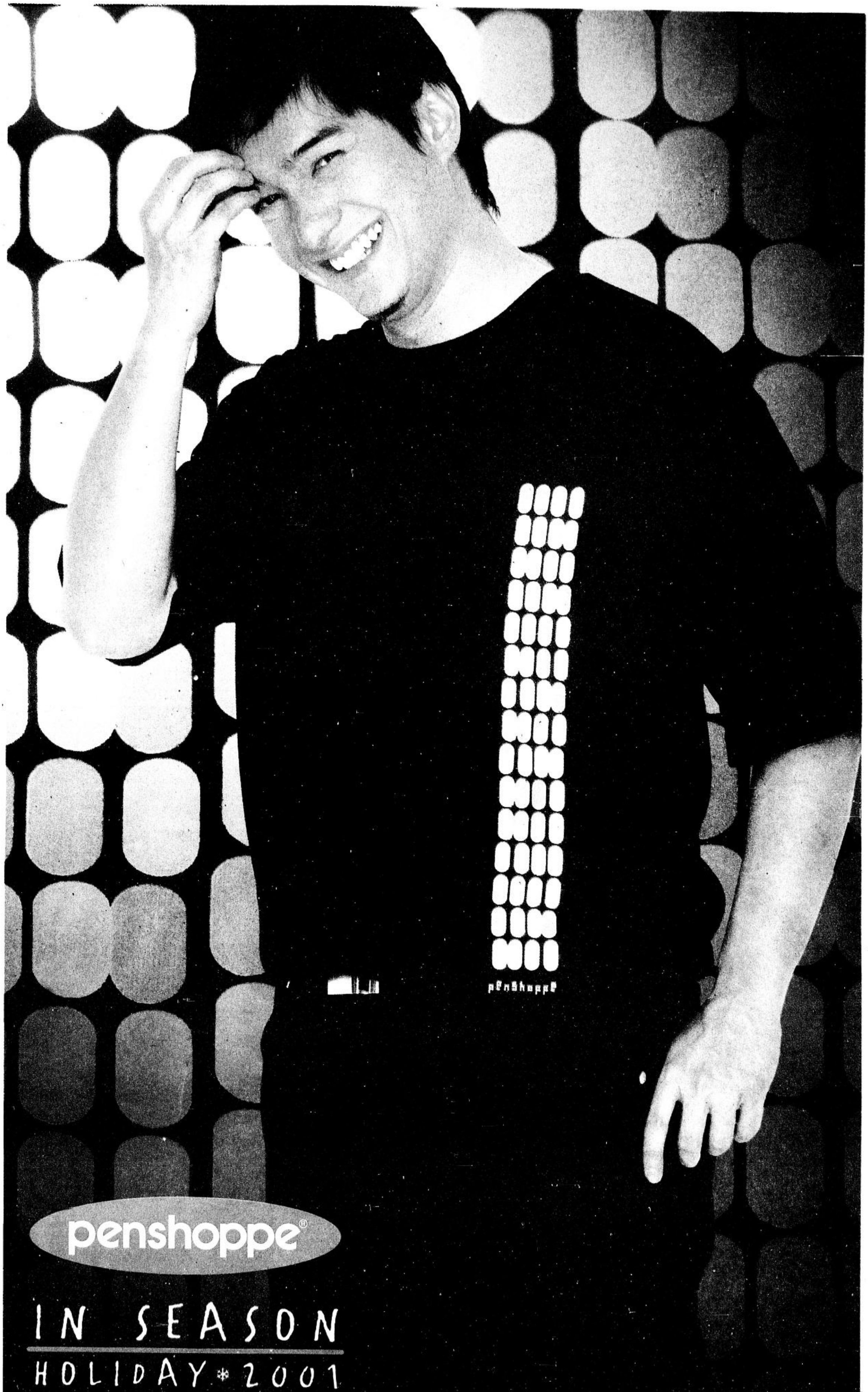
The 2,124-passenger Carnival Pride embarks on Dec. 30 on a six-day western Caribbean voyage from Miami, Florida, followed by a three-day Bahamas cruise from Port Canaveral that departs Jan. 9.

Starting Jan. 12, Carnival Pride will launch year-round- seven-day services from Port Canaveral, becoming the newest and largest vessel to operate from that port.

Sampaguita Travel is the appointed international wholesaler of Carnival Cruises. For inquiries and reservations, call 892-1121-23, e-mail crnvlph@compass.com.ph or visit www.sampaguitatravels.com.

THE CALL OF TAMBULI

Wondering where to take the family on a weekend holiday? Fine white sand, crystal-clear waters, excellent cuisine and top-of-the-line accommodations are only some of the attractions offered by the Tambuli resorts—the Tambuli Beach Club and Cebu Beach Club in Mactan and the Bohol Beach Club (shown in photo) and Blue Sky-Sea Resort in Panglao. For inquiries and reservations, visit Tambuli's sales office at Suite 1401, Victoria Bldg., UN Avenue, Ermita, Manila; call 522-2302 to 03; fax to 522-2304; or visit www.tambuli.com.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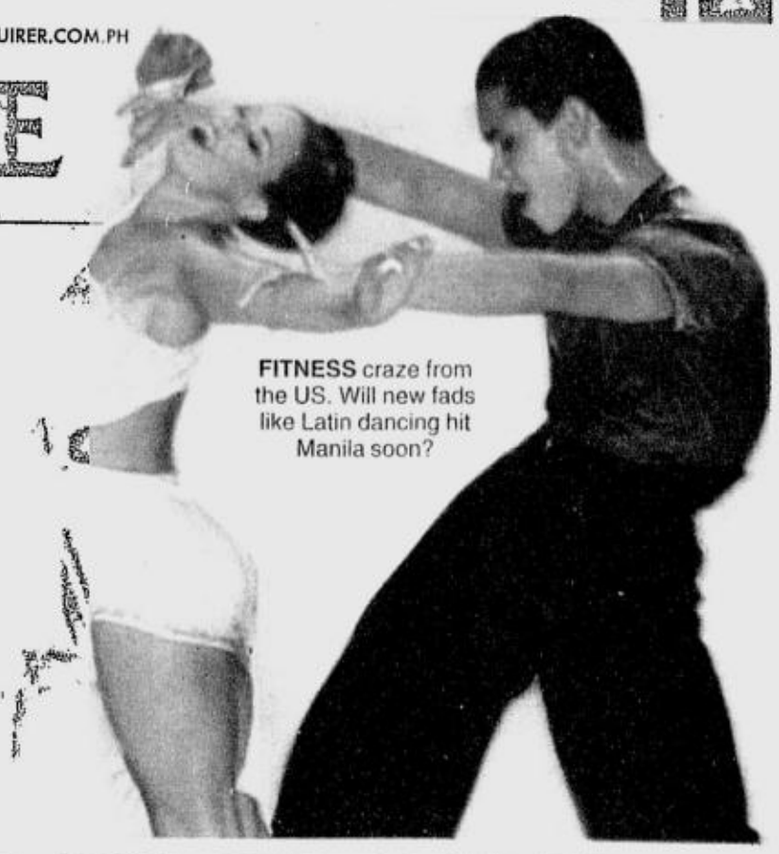
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2001 F1

Trends & Trendings

Sunday LIFESTYLE

New fitness craze, trick or treat, and shameless Tessie and Blas



FITNESS craze from the US. Will new fads like Latin dancing hit Manila soon?

BY ANTON SAN DIEGO

THE NEXT fitness craze: Tired of spinning, Pilates, kickboxing, aerobics and yoga? Are you looking for the next big thing to shake off the excess pounds? Now that the Christmas season is closing in (I had just heard my first Christmas song this season, and it was "Blue Christmas," which I hope is not an omen of things to come), here are some of the latest exercise fads from the US that may hit the Filipino market sooner than you think. Some are quite bizarre, but whoever thought that when Jane Fonda wore those colorful leotards and started the whole exercise craze, it would get this far, or worse? No matter how offbeat, these new exercises may allow you to forget you are actually exercising, which really helps.

Here are some choices. There's Latin dancing, which sounds like great fun. It's for all those who want to learn the salsa, merengue, samba, cha-cha and rhumba without the guilt of falling in love with the dance instructor. Then there's the Capoeira workout, a dance originating from the Africans in Brazil. It's a dance that somehow disguises it's really a martial arts form. It involves a lot of spinning, cartwheel kicks and stick fighting. It's not for ballroom dancers and the faint-hearted.

There's also Masala Bhangra, a traditional Indian folk dance where one follows the beat of Indian drums. Just think of those Indian movies where, after a romantic scene, everyone breaks into dance. Notice how much they jump up and down, which will definitely leave you sweating. Hmm, I wonder if it's from all the chili? It's amazing how Indian culture has gone mainstream—from food, fashion, etc. I wonder if someone can start the "*tinikling* workout." Don't laugh, we just might get the Americans interested. It is definitely an aerobic exercise!

This last one sounds like the most fun. It's called Cycling Karaoke. Yes, as the name implies, you pedal on your stationary bike while singing "Let's Get Physical." You not only work out your body but your lungs, too. Now here's the downside: you know the Filipino penchant for singing love songs, so instead of exercising, I can just see people turning the gym into one big karaoke place.

So take your pick. Whichever you choose, just exercise and don't forget to breathe!

Monday blues

LAST Monday I was at home nursing a fever. It was the first time in months that I stayed home so I tried to entertain myself by watching some noontime TV. I caught "Eat Bulaga" and "MTB." Comparing the two, "MTB" was better and more entertaining. "Eat Bulaga" needs to change its set and some of the hosts. I remember as a child watching "Student Canteen" and "Eat Bulaga" and during that time, "Eat Bulaga" was much better. I guess youth plays a big factor.

"MTB" has really funny segments. I like the "Queen Size" contest where horizontally challenged men dress as women. This was really hilarious. The other segment I liked was "Winner Take All." The premise of the contest is to try to beat an opponent to answering a question. When you do, you get to steal the money. One question just left me in stitches, "*Kung ang* plural *ng* foot *ay* feet, *at ang* past tense *ng* print *ay* printed, *ano ang* plural *ng* footprint?" A girl answered, "Footprinted."

Besides tuning to CNN at certain intervals to find out the latest on the anthrax and Afghan attacks, I was glued to the TV by the SkyCable advisory stating they were apologizing for the nonairing of Star TV and National Geographic. They said they were still in the middle of negotiations when Star pulled out their system. SkyCable was reassuring their customers they would still have a sports channel. All I can say is stop the apologies and thank God you are not showing replayed versions of the French Open, which were really annoying.

In the evening I caught **Edu Manzano**'s new show, "The Weakest Link." I must say I enjoyed it so much, especially when they had to boot one person out after each round. That was quite intriguing as Pinoys are known to be quite onion-skinned. One of the contestants was really pissed of when she was booted out; she said, "*Maka*-karma *rin sila*." These game shows, I think, will soon replace the telenovelas as the Pinoy's favorite entertainment. Think about it, at least you won't cry and you will get to win some money.

BURN fat while working your lungs with Cycling karaoke.

FROM INDIA, Masala Bhangra

So instead of resting due to my illness, I tried catching up on TV. I don't know if that's good, but it made me laugh. As they say, laughter is the best medicine.

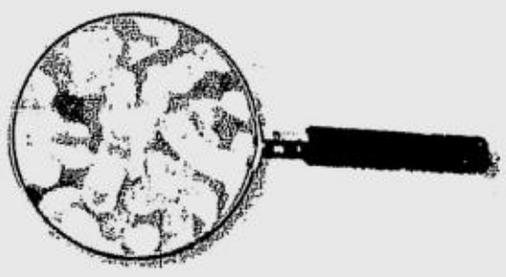
Trick or treat

IF last Halloween you were able to do some trick or treating and were able to go to the homes of nine of Manila's celebrated personalities, you might have received this interesting and controversial treats (or so we wish). They were from:

NEW/ p.F2

WALA KANG LABAN
KUNG WALA KANG ALAM
SA KALABAN.

Iba na ang dumi at germs sa mundo. Iba na ring panganib ang dala nila sa mundo mo. Para sa kaligtasan ng iyong pamilya, kilalanin ang bawat isa.

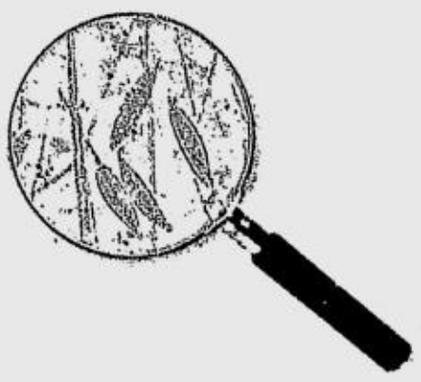


E-COLI

Ang Escherichia coli o E-coli ay isang uri ng bacteria na karaniwang nakukuha sa raw meat.
Kapag karne ay infected, lahat ng mga surfaces na mapaglagyan o mga bagay na madikitan nito ay masasalinan din ng E-coli: kutsilyo, cutting board, kitchen tiles, plato, lababo, etc.
Ang E-coli ay maaaring maging sanhi ng pagsusuka, sakit ng tiyan at diarrhea. Para maiwasan ang pagkakasakit, ugaliing linisin ang mga kitchen surfaces gamit ang Bagong Domex Thick.

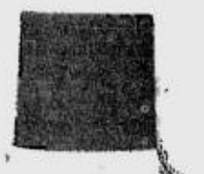
FUNGI

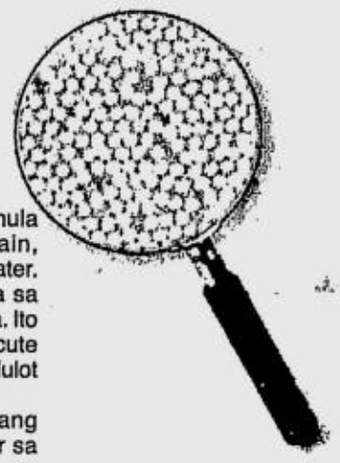
Ito ay matatagpuan sa mga damp areas gaya ng banyo at maaaring pagmulan ng pangangati, pagbahing at pag-ubo.
Para siguradong tanggal ang mapanganib na fungi, gumamit ng Bagong Domex Thick tuwing maglilinis.



SALMONELLA

Salmonella Enteritidis. Isang uri ng bacteria na makukuha sa hilaw na poultry.
Ang taong infected ay karaniwang nilalagnat, sumasakit ang tiyan at sinusumpong ng diarrhea sa loob ng 12 to 72 hours matapos ang pagkain ng pagkaing may Salmonella.
Para maiwasan, panatilihin sa refrigerator ang mga hilaw na pagkain. Dapat ding linisin ang mga lugar na pinaghandaan at pinaglutuan ng pagkain gamit ang Bagong Domex Thick.





HEPATITIS A VIRUS

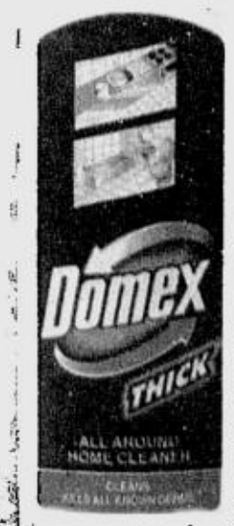
Ito ay virus na nagmumula sa maruruming pagkain, tubig at mga stagnant water. Maari rin itong maipasa sa iba ng taong maysakit na. Ito ang leading cause ng Acute Hepatitis na nakakapagdulot ng liver damage.
Siguraduhing malinis ang kusina at iba pang lugar sa bahay na pinaglalagyan ng pagkain. Gumamit ng Bagong Domex Thick tuwing maglilinis.

Sa mas mabagsik na dumi at germs, ito na dapat ang panlaban mo!

Bagong DOMEX Thick

Naiiba dahil Thick! Kaya kahit duming nanikit na, natatanggal pa. Pati all-known germs na kasama, napapatay pa.

Walang dumi. Walang germs. Walang duda.



An art exhibit in Hong Kong is a fascinating study of Philippine folk catholicism

LUCKY FREDDIE: Esquillo's "Lucky Calendar" combines a Chinese calendar and the portrait of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary.

Double devotion

BY KITTY GO

HONG KONG—My appreciation for contemporary Philippine art seems to have heightened with my move to this Asian city that never sleeps. However, the Philippine art collector at our house is my husband, who is British. He likes what more avant-garde dealers classify as "pretty pictures," such as those by Albor, Tomas and Crisologo. I, on the other hand, have a very liberal view of art. But sadly, I don't hold the checkbook.

Because I have never been a fan of colonization or the Catholic Church, it is easy for me to admire the works of artists such as Manuel Ocampo and Alwin Reamillo. I was first acquainted with Manuel Ocampo's work while I was living in Los Angeles. I later met the artist simply because his American dealer knew only two Filipinos—Ocampo and me. Ocampo remembered we were neighbors in Antipolo and rambled accurately about the layout of our house. At that time, it felt particularly creepy for me to meet an artist with excellent memory and a plastic doll's head hanging from his neck.

Alwin Reamillo, another internationally acclaimed Filipino artist who represented the Philippines in the 1995 Venice Biennale, was not as strange a character, but he likewise has very strong views against colonialism and the Catholic Church. His art is very disturbing (both in price and images) yet honest. Can you beat a crucified Ronald McDonald with his guts spilling out ("Mannanaggaol") at HK$65,000 ($8,500)? It is sad that Reamillo's and Ocampo's works are better received abroad than in the Philippines, if they are even received at all.

However, there is hope for political and religious liberals like myself who appreciate art outside the "pretty pictures" market yet do not have the stomach or the money for high-priced controversial art. In their Hong Kong debut, Alfredo "Freddie" Esquillo and Norberto "Peewee" Roldan have mounted "Devotion" at the John Batten Gallery in Central. One look at their religious and sociological interpretations and I had to ask if they ever sold anything in the Philippines. Both have great successes all over Asia, Europe and America and, to my surprise, at the West Gallery in Manila. Their styles, though completely different, are very easy to understand and identify with, and humorous at the same time. Their pieces tread a thin line between humor and sacrilege.

PEEWEE'S CROSSING: Roldan stands in front of Faith and Devotion #2 made of glow-in-the-dark crucifixes.

PEEWEE'S BOXED PALM SUNDAY: Faith and Devotion #4 is Roldan's ode to Palm Sunday with dried palm leaves against a *stampita* collage.

Social and religious icons

"Daang Ligid Krus" (1996), owned by collector Claude Tayag, is probably Freddie Esquillo's most famous work. It shows a cross-section of Philippine society going through a maze dotted with various Philippine societal and religious icons. "That was done after I came back from a trip which was my first time on a plane," recalls the artist, "I saw the streets from above and they looked like a maze. I started working on the idea that life is like a labyrinth."

Esquillo is a winner of the coveted Philip Morris Asean Art Award. He experimented with various media, including rubber (which he still uses) before arriving at his current choice, religious and Chinese calendars woven together with interlining (Pellon). For this show, Esquillo took two (or even three) calendars or a calendar and a portrait (or two) he did on interlining and cut them into strips. He then wove the strips together simulating the grid pattern of a *banig* (local grass mat). It is difficult to describe the effect. One can see the images but not in their entirety. Yet, one "gets the picture." Of course, he chooses religious images but they are not limited to the Holy Family, the Sacred Heart or the Santo Niño (Child Jesus). This Quiapo frequent traveler included the famous Quiapo icon *Mang* Lauro, cult leader of Samahang Kristo Hari, and his wife Maria. *Mang* Lauro, portrayed wearing a red velvet cloak, believes himself to be the reincarnation of Jesus Christ.

A week after the opening, "Crowned with Thorns," Esquillo's biggest and most expensive work in the show (HK$17,000; $2,210), had already been sold. It is of all things, a woven banner that combines the images of the Sacred Heart and *Mang* Lauro—Jesus and his Pinoy reincarnation! It is a brilliant summary of what the artist's current work is all about and also an accurate depiction of the changing local religious culture.

CROWNED FREDDIE: Esquillo and "Crowned with Thorns," his biggest and most expensive work at the HK show that sold within a week of the opening. It is woven from two portraits: Christ and *Mang* Lauro of Samahang Kristong Hari.

Perfect complement

Peewee Roldan makes the perfect complement to Esquillo's realist images turned abstract. Roldan, meanwhile, takes everyday tangible things (some even junk) and creates boxed environments reflecting religion and its relation to society. The artist has a crystal clear understanding of how folklore and animism are successfully practiced together with Catholicism. In one of his pieces from his series "Faith and Devotion," he displays religious cards and crucifixes together with several little pouches filled with herbs. These pouches, which come from provincial witch doctors, are usually pinned on kids by their maids to ward off evil or cure disease. This paganistic practice exists as the family practices the Catholic faith, praying for blessings and good health.

Being from an exclusive private Catholic school, I just had to chuckle at one of Roldan's boxes filled with Catholic medallions of every shape and size, which seemed to taunt the way someone like me was brought up. His boxes on women's vanity, still part of the series, show the contrasting characters of Filipinas. "Filipinas are vain, but still religious,"observes Roldan. One shows a collage of former box-office queen Susan Roces in her heyday with a crumbled powder compact and used lipstick. Another ode to women is a hodge-podge of different feminine images, some of which are of the Virgin Mary.

I wondered aloud why their pieces sold successfully, especially in a conservative and religiously devout country like the Philippines. Surely they were of the school that colonizers and the Catholic Church were nothing but bad influences. Both artists have nothing against colonizers or the Church, but neither is religious. They believe the Filipino identity is strong despite colonization. For them, the Philippine colonial past and Catholicism are facts that cannot be changed, but they can be analyzed. Or even humored.

"Devotion," a two-man debut by Alfredo "Freddie" Esquillo and Norberto "Peewee" Roldan, is at the John Batten Gallery from until Nov. 11. John Batten Gallery is at 64 Peel St., Central, Hong Kong; ph (852)2854-1018; e-mail: batten@asiaonline.net.

E-mail the author at styledowager@hotmail.com

TEESAW

Raul Teehankee

The party heat goes on

DISH was awash in orange last week when Absolut Mandarin kicked off its series of bar tours, which included Po Na Na. The Mandarin Mobile Bus brought a mob of partygoers to all the witching parties in Metro Manila.

As we drunk Absolut all night long, we came across some very interesting and beautiful people.

TROY Montero

JOYCE Jimenez

CHIQUI and Eric Torres-Tan

VICTOR Neri

STEVE Burns and Jenny Diaz

KATRINA Tuason

ILLAC Diaz with friend

CARLO Rufino

ARNOLD Vegafria, Leanna Farrales and Leo Valdez before he left for Manchester

INIGO Elizalde

New fitness craze, trick or treat, and shameless Tessie and Blas

(From page F1)

1. Sen. **Ping Lacson**—Airline tickets and his alleged dollar accounts;

2. Secretary **Lito Camacho**—More posters of "dancing queen" **Tessie Oreta** that were used in Edsa 2;

3. **Henry Sy** and **Lucio Tan**—Cold, hard cash!;

4. **Gabby Lopez**—A new contract for Star Movies and National Geographic to be included in SkyCable;

5. **Rajo Laurel**—A subscription to Manila Standard;

6. Sen. **Noli de Castro**—A book titled "How to Deliver a Speech without a Teleprompter";

7. **Maurice Arcache**—Share his 46 vitamins and his thoughts on certain writers;

8. Ex-Mares with a penchant for giving costume parties—A bottle of Aqua Net hairspray and tales of the good life when **Erap** was in power;

9. Former senator **Miriam Santiago**—Her new book whose title I really do not know. Why will she give it away? Because probably no one will buy it.

The sprit of volunteerism

THE OTHER day I caught up with dynamic and pretty lawyer **Gianna Montinola**, who has added a new feather to her cap. She is the chair and president of Hands on Manila Foundation Inc. (HOM), a nonprofit organization that recruits, educates and coordinates a network of volunteers for diverse community projects in Metro Manila. Just by speaking to her, I became sold to the idea of doing something to help. Although I may not have the time to put in six to eight hours of volunteering, I can do it on my own time. It may not be a lot, but it's a good start.

All you have to do to join HOM is attend an orientation to learn about the foundation and to choose which project you want to volunteer in. HOM is affiliated with City Cares, USA, a foundation committed to providing innovative opportunities for individuals, groups and corporations to donate their time through volunteer work.

Volunteer orientations for November are scheduled at 6 p.m. on Nov. 20 and 27 at PowerBooks, Pasay Road, Makati. At present, HOM has established programs with other social-needs organizations such as My Zoo Foundation Inc., Habitat for Humanity (Las Piñas Chapter), Kaisahang Buhay Foundation, KYTHE Inc. and Tuloy sa Don Bosco, among others. Interested parties can call the HOM at 843-7044 (ask for Leilani Tejones).

Diary of Constance Brooke San Lorenzo Pendleton—dancing queen redux. THIS week our intrepid socialite and ex-Mare gets tired of answering her fan mail and focuses on two senators who have been hogging the limelight along with the anthrax scare.

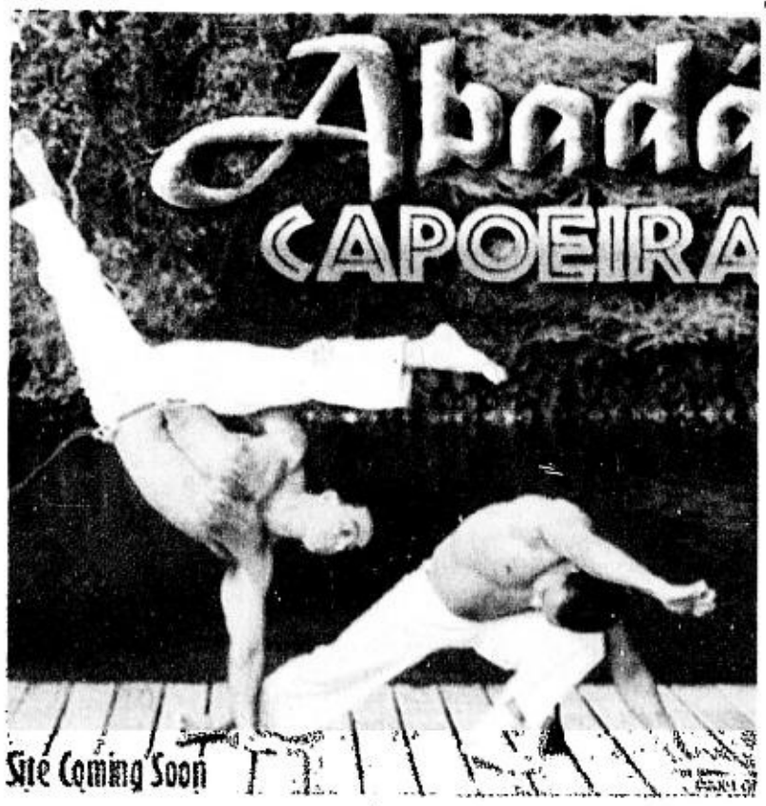
"Time to return to the local scene. I am sick and tired of hearing about anthrax. I think it is an absolute bloody shame that two of the appalling 11 senators have the audacity to give Secretary Lito Camacho a hard time during his confirmation hearings. As you know, they questioned him on why his kids put up a streamer making fun of 'Dancing Tessie.' Everybody hates her, anyway.

"Likewise, didn't she see the way people made fun of her during Edsa 2? I can't believe she and her buddy Blas can be so *kapal* as to give him a hard time for expressing his views—freedom of expression and all—and for what? For showing disrespect? Well, they, too, showed disrespect to the Filipino people when they cast their infamous vote in the impeachment trial. And didn't Tessie show us disrespect when she danced her jig? They should lower their eyes in shame for what they did. Whatever happened to *delicadeza*?

"I think Secretary Camacho should drop his usual gracious behavior and just come out and tell her he is proud to have put the streamer up and she and Blas should be ashamed for daring to bring it up. If they vote not to confirm him, well, then, he will be yet another hero and those two will be, once again, exposed as the louses they are.

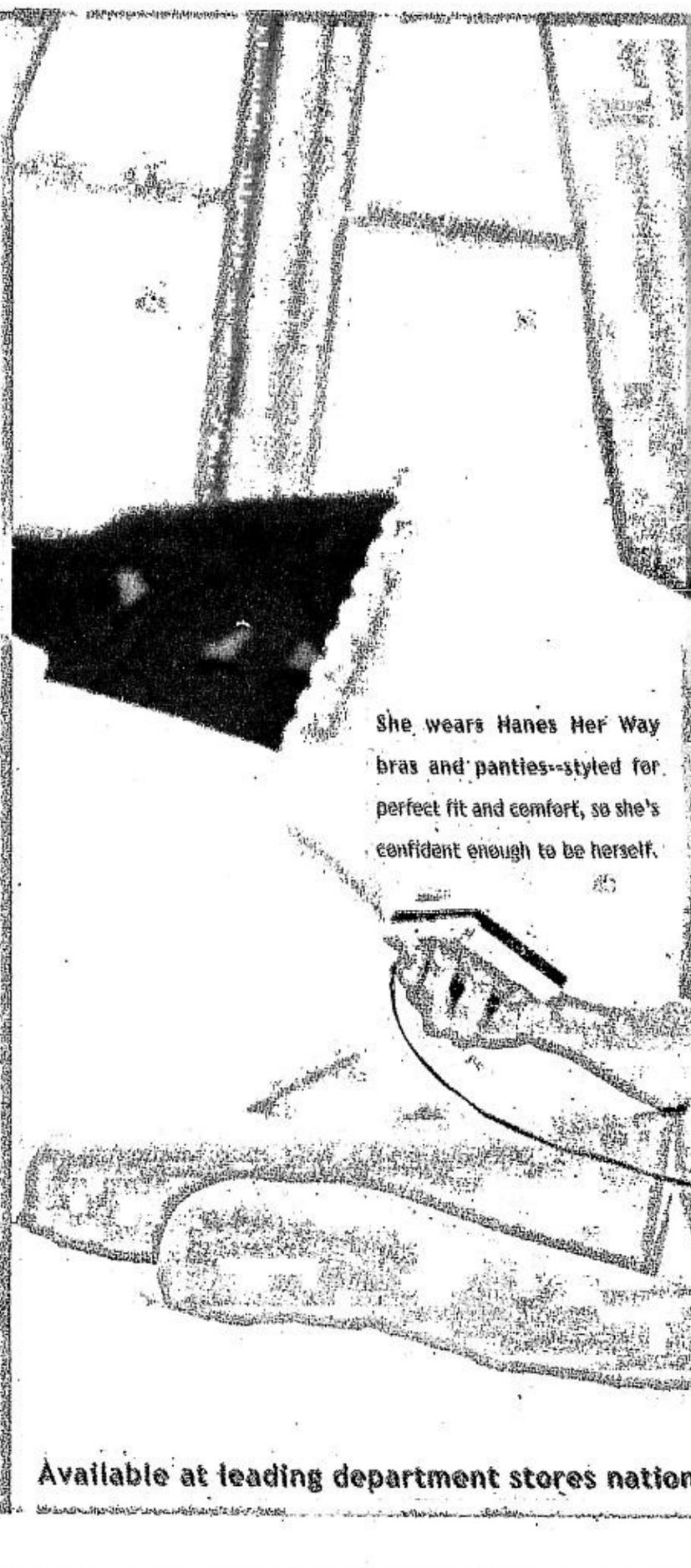
"But I think the real shame is how this episode illustrates, once again, how short Filipino memory is. After everything these two (and the rest of their ilk) have done, I am surprised that people are not outraged. If these two feel they can get away with that kind of behavior, it is only because we let them. Think about it."

E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.com



FROM BRAZIL, the Capoeira workout

"There's *nothing* sexier than a girl who's comfortable with herself."



She wears Hanes Her Way bras and panties--styled for perfect fit and comfort, so she's confident enough to be herself.

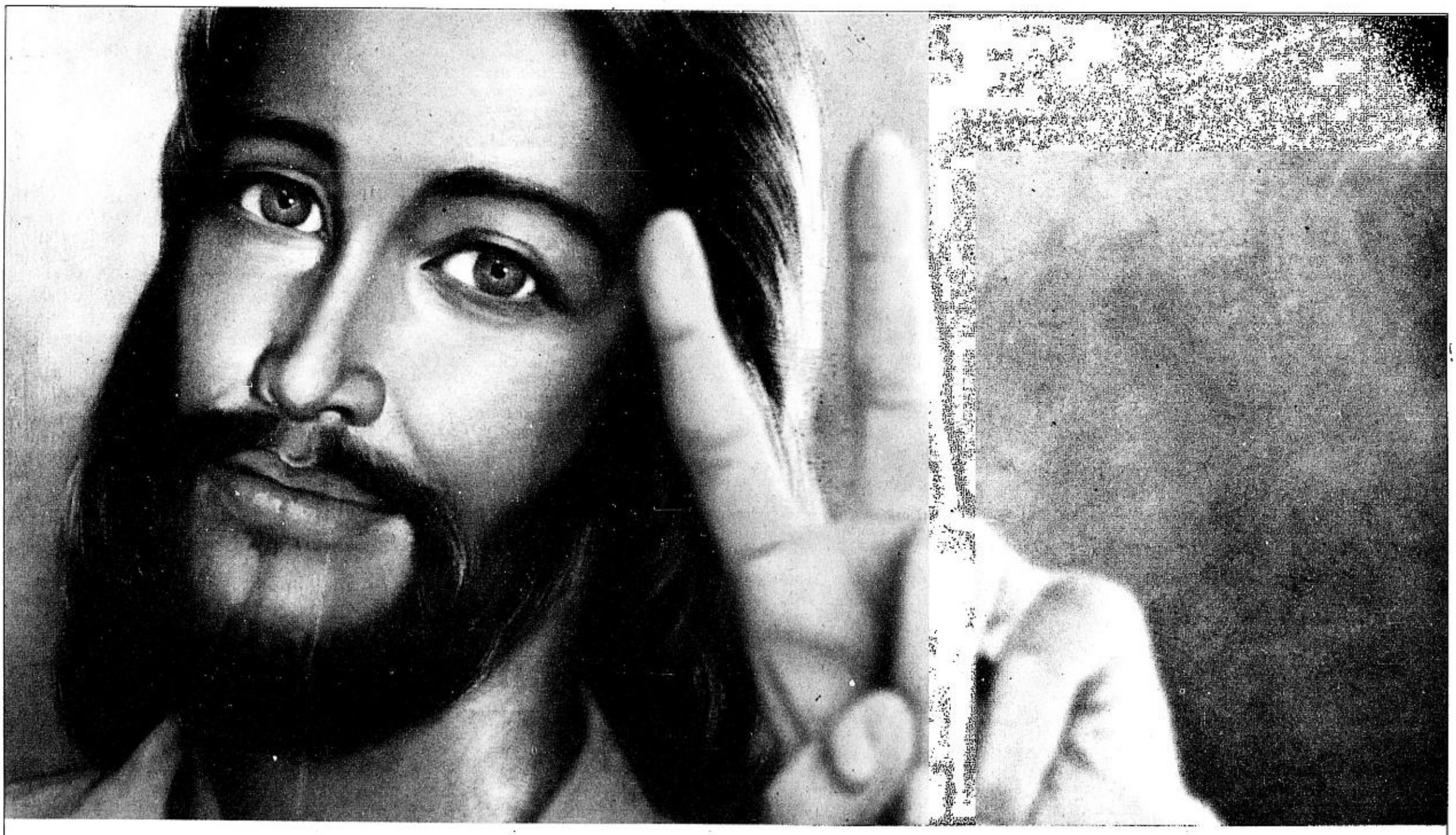
I love the in Hanes

Hanes Her Way

Available at leading department stores nationwide

NOBODY DOES IT LIKE SARA LEE

Sara Lee



A MESSAGE FOR WORLD PEACE

GOODWILL BOOKSTORE

Your family - friendly bookstore

PHILIPPINE DERMATOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NATIONAL SKIN DISEASE DETECTION AND PREVENTION WEEK

NOVEMBER 4-10, 2001

GRACE PENALES, Account Manager SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

Healthy skin is best

That "beautiful flawless skin" played up by media and advertising may not necessarily be "healthy skin," warns the Philippine Dermatological Society

THE SKIN, the most visible part of the body, often overlooked or even abused through countless bleaching and peeling in beauty salons, takes center stage with the opening today of the National Skin Disease Detection and Prevention Week.

The skin week celebration will highlight the role of dermatologists in the care of skin, hair and nails, and proper appraising of skin conditions, according to the Philippine Dermatological Society.

The activities for the week prepared by the Society also aim to raise the level of awareness on basic care of the skin for health, promote self-examination to detect early onset of skin changes that may portend disease, and teach prevention of common skin diseases.

The PDS has scheduled a research forum (November 5); an annual convention to be held at the Westin Philippine Plaza (November 6-7); lectures in health centers in 10 areas in Metro Manila and 11 in the provinces, and dissemination of leaflets and posters on proper skin care (November 8 and 9); and free skin clinics (November 10).

"The kind of attention we have been giving our skin is mostly a product of media or advertising that aims to sell products to make skin 'look and feel' good. Yet what is 'beautiful skin' as emphasized in these various advertisements may not necessarily be 'healthy' skin," according to PDS.

PDS president Dr. Elizabeth Amelia V. Tianco emphasizes that dermatologists are the best persons to care for skin, hair and nails and people should be wary of practitioners who are not certified dermatologists. "You are not sure that they are properly trained and they may even charge a lot more than the real dermatologists."

Real dermatologists undergo residency programs in accredited training institutions and pass the certifying board examinations by the Philippine Board of Dermatology. The PDS has six accredited institutions for dermatology training: University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital, University of Sto. Tomas, University of the East-Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center, Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, Makati Medical Center, and the Skin and Cancer Foundation, Inc.

"If they have the certificate to show that they passed the examinations given by the Philippine Board of Dermatology then people are more assured that these doctors are competent," says Tianco.

Proper care of the skin should be done from the "inside and the outside," she says. A balanced diet, enough liquids, adequate sleep and rest, exercise, avoidance of stress, and not smoking are ways to keep skin healthy internally. Externally, one should take a bath and shampoo

HEALTHY/ F5

MESSAGES

AS THE LARGEST organ system of the body, the skin deserves our attention because of its medical importance. The skin and its appendages, the hair and nails, not only serve an aesthetic function but also more important ones of being a protective cover for the body, a temperature regulator, and a calorie reservoir, among others.

This year is the second time that the Philippine Dermatological Society serves as the lead agency in the celebration of "National Skin Disease Detection and Prevention Week". Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has endorsed the celebration under Proc. No.110. The theme is *Balat...Alagaan Laban sA SakiT*.

The different scheduled activities will focus on early detection of skin problems by self-examination of the skin and the prevention of diseases through basic care of the skin, hair and nails.

ELIZABETH AMELIA V. TIANCO, MD, FPDS
President
Philippine Dermatological Society

GREETINGS! The celebration of the "National Skin Disease Detection and Prevention Week" is now on its second year! Various activities have been planned again to promote early detection of skin ailments, patient education on skin diseases with emphasis on their prevention, continuing medical education for the physicians and research to uplift knowledge about cutaneous diseases. I would like acknowledge the help of the members of the Ad Hoc Committee for the National Skin Disease Detection and Prevention Week, the PDS members who have volunteered for the different activities, and our partners in the pharmaceutical industry. Working together we will surely make this PDS endeavor a success!

ARNELFA C. PALIZA, M.D.
Chair
Ad Hoc Committee for National Skin Disease Detection and Prevention Week

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

"Balat...Alagaan Laban sA sakiT = paglilingkod ng Philippine Dermatological Society"

Monday, Nov. 5
Poster exhibits at hospital lobbies of various accredited training institutions:
- Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center
- Makati Medical Center
- UERM Memorial Medical Center
- UP-Philippine General Hospital
- UST Hospital
- Skin & Cancer Foundation, Inc.

9th Annual Residents' Forum (Research Paper Presentation), Amorsolo Grand Ballroom, Manila Galleria Suites

Tuesday, Nov. 6
Fellowship Night and Induction of New Diplomates and Fellows, 5-9 p.m., Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel, City of Manila

Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 6-7
26th PDS Annual Convention "Evidence-Based Medicine: Dermatology", Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel, City of Manila

Thursday, Nov. 8
Skinhelp* Lectures on "Basic Care for Healthy Skin, Hair & Nails" and distribution of patient information leaflets in different barangay health centers in NCR (*through an educational grant from Johnson & Johnson, Philippines)

Friday, Nov. 9
Skinhelp* Lectures in secondary schools in NCR
Skinhelp* Lectures in different barangay health centers in key cities nationwide

Saturday, Nov. 10
Simultaneous free clinics by PDS volunteer members (PDS Outreach Program) in key cities nationwide, in cooperation with Stiefel Philippines, Inc. and Janssen Pharmaceutica

26TH PDS ANNUAL CONVENTION

NOVEMBER 6 - 7, 2001

WARMEST felicitations to the Philippine Dermatological Society on its 26th Annual Convention.

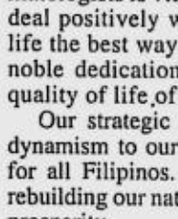
I congratulate the PDS for its vital efforts in promoting professional excellence among dermatologists and in ensuring the health of our people. Your convention theme, "Evidence-Based Medicine: Dermatology," manifests your professionalism and commitment to improve the competencies and capabilities of dermatologists in helping society prevent and control skin diseases. I hope this important event will bring dermatologists to a higher level of capability and effectiveness in caring for people with skin ailments as well as in educating the public about good skin health.

People with skin ailments must be given the necessary medical care and support so that they can recover and become healthy citizens capable of contributing their share to national development. The work of dermatologists is vital in helping people with skin ailments deal positively with their affliction and carry on with life the best way possible. I urge you to continue your noble dedication to promote health and enhance the quality of life of our people.

Our strategic partnership provides the impetus and dynamism to our common pursuit of quality healthcare for all Filipinos. Let us work together in healing and rebuilding our nation towards greater peace, progress and prosperity.

Mabuhay!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines



WITH heartfelt felicitations and on behalf of the Officers and the Board of Governors of the Philippine Medical Association, we greet the officers and members of the Philippine Dermatological Society on the occasion of its 26th Annual Convention.

We are particularly pleased to welcome all delegates to this convention on the theme, "Evidence-Based Medicine: Dermatology". For sure everyone would be pleased to know that besides our homegrown specialists, experts from foreign shores shall help in focusing attention to and in raising awareness of advances in the science and technologies of skin care. This convention shall also convey the responsiveness of the PDS to trends and innovations in skin care through informative and interactive scientific sessions. The PMA commends the PDS for leaving no stone unturned to make this momentous convention a most productive and successful event.

Thank you, PDS, for sharing with us your commitment to the task of addressing threats to health, thus giving substance to the PMA theme, "Doctors at the Forefront – A Challenge for Change".

Congratulations. *Mabuhay* ang Philippine Dermatological Society!

GIL C. FERNANDEZ, M.D.
President
Philippine Medical Association

I WOULD like to express my warmest felicitations to the Philippine Dermatological Society as it holds its 26th Annual Convention on Nov. 6 and 7, 2001 during the celebration of the National Skin Disease Detection and Prevention Week.

Advances in information technology have heralded us into an era where the global exchange and transfer of knowledge along the information highway occurs swiftly and in real time. As we have seen recently, this information explosion needs to be managed properly especially when it pertains to health issues that may affect everyone and cause people undue anxiety and misplaced fear for their safety and well-being.

The theme of your convention, "Evidence-based Medicine: Dermatology," therefore is appropriate and timely as it highlights the importance of invoking research-backed evidence in the day-to-day management of dermatological diseases. However, since not all evidence is admissible, it is imperative for health professionals to learn the rudiments of critical appraisal of research journals and articles for more accurate judgment and decision-making.

The Department of Health lauds all efforts and activities in line with the present administration's thrust of reforming the health sector to improve the quality of healthcare for all Filipinos.

To the organizers and participants, may you have a fruitful and enjoyable convention.

Congratulations and *Mabuhay!*

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, MD, MSC
Secretary
Department of Health

GREETINGS! Once again, the Philippine Dermatological Society is holding its 26th Annual Convention on the 6th and 7th of November 2001 at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel. This year's theme, Evidence Based Medicine: Dermatology, is but fitting to the era of immense research and advances in technology. With the voluminous data in the medical world, one has to know which are supported by evidence and facts, and not just claims or results of chance. Evidence Based Medicine is the tool that must be employed by all clinicians to critically appraise the merits of therapies. Distinguished local and foreign speakers will talk on various topics in Pediatric and Geriatric Dermatology, Sexually Transmitted Infections, Anti-viral Therapy, the Sexually Abused Child, Medico-Legal Responsibilities of the Dermatologist in Rape, Cosmetics and various Cosmetic Procedures. A highlight of the meeting is the First Dr. Perpetuo D. Gutierrez Memorial Lecture in honor of the first PDS president.

In behalf of the organizing committee, I welcome you all to this two-day convention. Surely, this meeting will be fruitful and enjoyable for all of us.

FRANCISCA C. ROA, M.D.
Overall Chairperson
26th Annual Convention Organizing Committee
Philippine Dermatological Society

Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2001

7:00-8:00 **Registration**

8:00-8:30 **National Anthem**
Invocation
Dr. Elizabeth A.V. Tianco
Welcome Remarks
Dr. Francisca C. Roa
Inspirational Message
Sec. Manuel M. Dayrit
Department of Health

Scientific Sessions: Evidence-Based Medicine: Dermatology

8:30-9:00 **Epidemiology in Dermatology**
Tsu-Yi Chuang, MD, MPH

9:00-9:30 **Evidence-Based Medicine: Dermatology**
Dr. Dédéé Murrell MA (Cantab), BMBCh (Oxon), FAAD(USA)

9:30-10:00 **The Cochrane Skin Group**
Dr. Dédéé Murrell

10:00-10:15 **Open Forum/Coffee Break**

10:15-10:45 **Comparing Common Dermatologic Disorders in Different Countries**
Dr. Tsu-Yi Chuang

10:45-11:15 **EBM: Cosmetic Procedures and Cosmeceuticals**
Dr. Dédéé Murrell

11:15-11:30 **Open Forum**

11:30-12:00 **Lunch Symposium: Urticaria**
Dr. Felicidad Cua-Lim

12:00-1:00 **Lunch**

Symposium 1A: Pediatric and Geriatric Dermatology

2:00-2:20 **Role of Dermatologists in Genetic Skin Disorders**
Dr. Carmencita Padilla

2:20-2:40 **Therapeutics on Emerging Pediatric Infectious Exanthems**
Dr. Donna Marie Leelin-Sarrosa

2:40-3:00 **Open Forum/Coffee Break**

3:00-3:20 **Dermatological Therapeutics in the Aging Skin**
Dr. Eleanor Lo-Letran

3:20-3:40 **Possible Systemic Implications of Geriatric Skin Disorders**
Dr. Paul Malabanan

3:40-4:00 **Open Forum**

Symposium 1B: Sexually Transmitted Infections

2:00-2:20 **Current Evidence in Anti-viral Therapy**
Dr. Tsu-Yi Chuang

2:20-2:40 **Genital Ulcers and Discharge: New Trends in Management**
Dr. Gilbert T. Yang

2:40-3:00 **Open Forum/Coffee Break**

3:00-3:20 **The Sexually Abused Child**
Dr. Bernadette J. Madrid

3:20-3:40 **Medico-Legal Responsibilities of the Dermatologist in Rape**
Dr. Teresita Sanchez

3:40-4:00 **Open Forum**

Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2001

8:30-9:30 **The First Dr. Perpetuo Gutierrez Memorial Lecture**
Dr. Lilia Ordinario-Santiago

9:30-10:00 **Lasers and Light Sources for Hair Removal**
Dr. Simon Rosenbaum

10:00-10:30 **Pulsed Dye Laser in Vascular Lesions**
Dr. Simon Rosenbaum

10:30-10:45 **Open Forum/Coffee Break**

10:45-11:05 **Anthrax Update**
Dr. Eileen A. Cubillan

11:05-12:05 **Lunch Symposium: New Options in the Treatment of Acne**
Dr. Sylvia De Santos-Santos

12:05-1:00 **Lunch**

Symposium 2A - EBM: Cosmetic Procedures

1:00-1:20 **Non-invasive Facial Rejuvenation: Laser, IPL or the Peel?**
Dr. Nancy Garcia-Tan

1:20-1:40 **Botulinum Toxin: Indications and Safety Profile**
Dr. Kenty U. Sian

1:40-1:55 **Open Forum**

1:55-2:15 **Zapping the Veins: Lasers vs. Sclerotherapy**
Dr. Cynthia Ciriaco-Tan

2:15-2:35 **Current Evidence on Management of Stretch Marks**
Dr. Rhesa May Manaloto-Martinez

2:35-2:55 **Microdermabrasion: Hope or Hype?**
Dr. Rosario Abaya-Blas

2:55-3:10 **Open Forum/Coffee Break**

Symposium 2B EBM: Cosmetics

1:00-1:20 **Dietary Supplements in Skin, Hair and Nails**
Dr. Belen Dofitas

1:20-1:40 **Meta-analysis of Some Lightening Agents—Getting Closer to EBM**
Dr. Vermén Verallo-Rowell

1:40-1:55 **Open Forum**

1:55-2:15 **Understanding Soaps and Cleansers**
Dr. Cecilia Torralba

2:15-2:35 **Knowing the Allergens in Cosmetics**
Dr. Lonabel A. Encarnacion

2:35-2:55 **Open Forum/Coffee Break**

2:55-3:10 **PDS Closing Ceremonies**

3:10-5:00 **Philippine Dermatological Society Business Meeting**

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Overall Chairperson

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Dr. Ma. Victoria C. Dizon
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Centers for the lectures on 'Basic Care for Healthy Skin, Hair & Nails'

November 8, 2001
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

Karuhatan HC, Valenzuela
Barangay Hall, Karuhatan Rd., Valenzuela, Manila

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Malibay Plaza, Malibay, Pasay City

November 9, 2001
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Brgy. San Jose, Cabanatuan City

Cabanatuan City HC
Brgy. Caridad, Cabanatuan City

Main HC, Batangas City
Brgy. Main, Batangas City

Manay-banay HC, Batangas City
Brgy. Banay-banay, Batangas City

Pasil HC, Cebu City
Brgy. Pasil, T. Padilla, Cebu City

Suba HC, Cebu City
Brgy. Tejeros, M. Cuenco St., Cebu City

Bacolod City HC
Bacolod Health Center, Bacolod City

Obrero HC, Davao City
Brgy 20-B HC, Poras St., Obrero, Davao City

Agdao HC, Davao City
Lapu-lapu St. cor. Bangoy, Agdao, Davao City

PDS SKIN DISEASE DETECTION AND PREVENTION WEEK OUTREACH PROGRAM, November 10, 2001

LAS PIÑAS	Purok IV Barangay CAA, Las Piñas City
MARIKINA	Marikina Health City Office Marikina City
MANILA	Sta. Ana Health Center Manila
	Vitas' Health Center, Bldg. 10, Road 10, Tondo, Manila
QUEZON CITY	Barangay Hall Area A Talanay, Batasan, Quezon City
CAVITE	Imus Municipal Health Office Imus, Cavite
NAGA	Bicol Medical Center Naga City
PAMPANGA	Northwest Health Center Angeles City, Pampanga
CEBU	Pasil Health Center Tejero Health Center Cebu City
ILOILO	Iloilo Medical Society Bldg. La Paz, Iloilo City
DAVAO	SK Hall Mabini St., Davao City

National Skin Disease Detection and Prevention Week Ad Hoc Committee

Chair: Arnelfa C. Paliza, MD
Members: Marilu G. Aquino, MD; Bernadette B. Arcilla, MD; Benjamin B. Bince, MD; Lina D.Torralba, MD; Nancy Garcia-Tan, MD; Ma. Isabel B. Mangubat, MD

Healthy skin . . . (From page F4)

hair regularly and avoid trauma to the skin as much as possible.

"People should do self examination on their skin. When they see something starting to come out of their skin, they should consult a dermatologist. They should not try to self medicate," says Tianco. She warns that improper treatment of certain skin conditions may even cause them to worsen.

The theme for the skin week's celebration is "Balat Alagaan Laban sA sakiT" (BALAT). This is already the second year the PDS has been serving as the lead agency in the celebration. Last year, President Joseph Estrada declared a specific week for its celebration. This year though, through Proclamation 110 President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has declared the second week of November each year as "National Skin Disease Detection and Prevention Week."

The annual convention will focus on the application of "evidenced-based" medicine in dermatology, or the knowledge and ability of dermatologists to appraise the efficacy of medications on skin conditions.

"Evidence-based medicine advocates a method of making clinical decisions that relies not only on experience and clinical expertise, but also makes use of the best research evidence available," says Tianco. Consequently, all subjects to be discussed in the convention will be presented according to this perspective.

Topics include pediatric dermatology, geriatric dermatology, sexually transmitted infections, lasers, urticaria, acne therapy, and cosmetic procedures.

Distinguished speakers, well known both in the fields of evidence-based medicine and dermatology, will grace the convention. Dr. Tsu-Yi Chuang is an Arthur Norins professor and medical director of the melanoma program of the Department of Dermatology at Indiana University. Dr. Dedee Murrell is a staff specialist of St. George Hospital and senior lecturer of the University of New South Wales in Australia. Dr. Simon Rosenbaum is a prominent cosmetic surgeon from Melbourne, Australia who is a member of International Society of Cosmetic Surgeons.

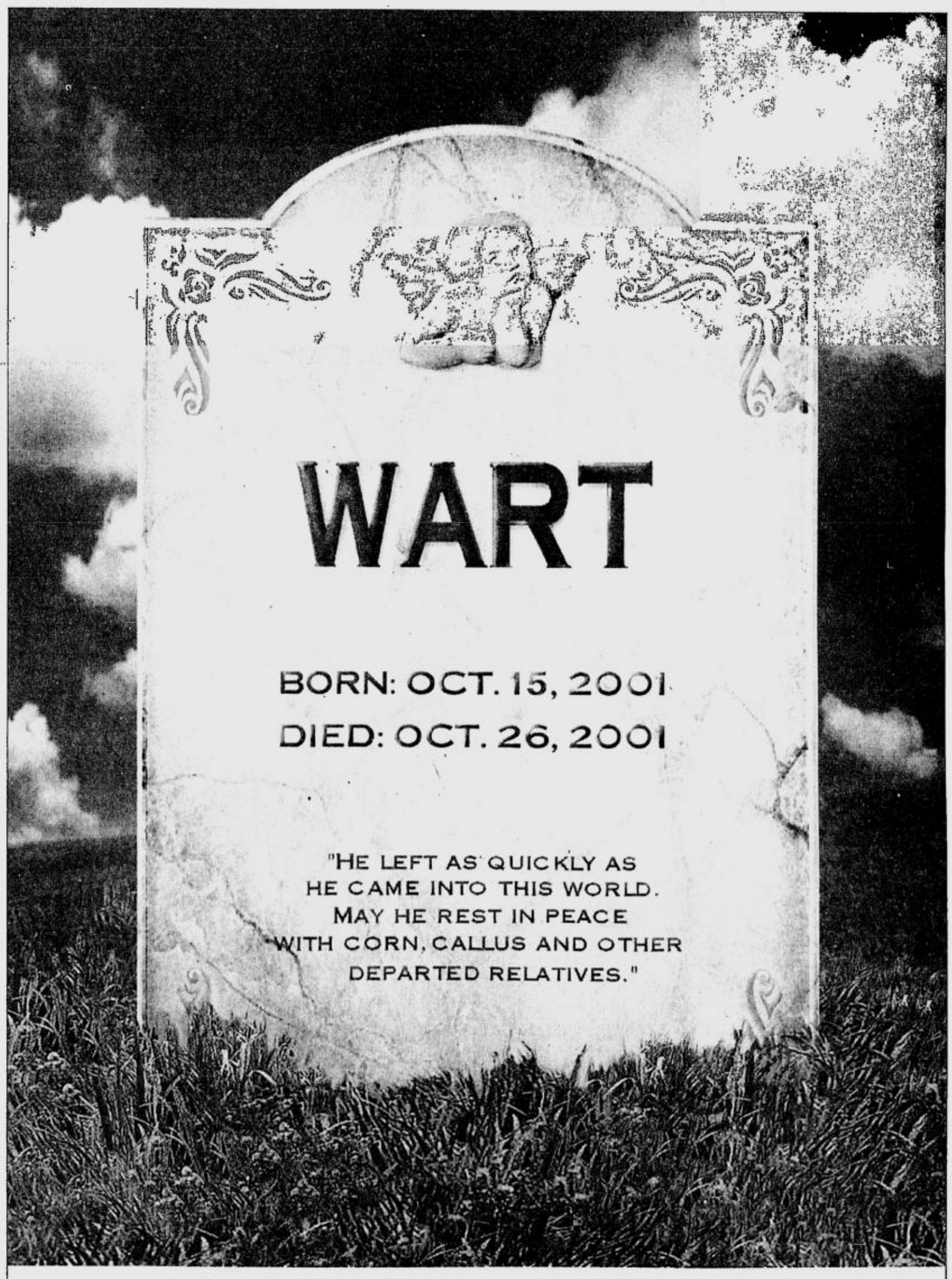
Highlight of the meeting is the first Dr. Perpetuo Gutierrez Memorial Lecture in honor of the first PDS president Dr. Perpetuo Gutierrez (1952-1957). This will be delivered by Dr. Lilia O. Santiago, a former PDS president, on "Dermatology in the Philippines."

The skin week celebration is held in November to coincide with the PDS' foundation. The Society was formed on November 8, 1952 by only 11 doctors. Today the organization has 327 members.

The Society doesn't only work during the "National Skin Disease Detection and Prevention Week." As it nears its 50th anniversary next year, the PDS has remained committed to its mission-vision: leadership in the attainment of healthy skin for all Filipinos through service, training and research activities. The lectures on basic care of the skin, hair and nails, and the outreach program are ongoing throughout the year. In addition, the Society has a weekly "Know Your Skin" column in a newspaper, and maintains a website (www.pds .org.ph) to promote the prevention and early detection of skin diseases among Filipinos.

As the oldest and largest organization of trained dermatologists in the country today, the PDS is an affiliate of the Philippine Medical Association, and is a member of the International League of Dermatological Societies and the League of ASEAN Dermatological Societies.

For information on the PDS or its programs, contact the PDS Secretariat at Rm. 1015 Front Tower, Cathedral Heights Bldg. Complex, St. Luke's Medical Center, tel.no. 7230301 local 2015, or 727-7309 or send e-mail to pds@pacific.net.ph.



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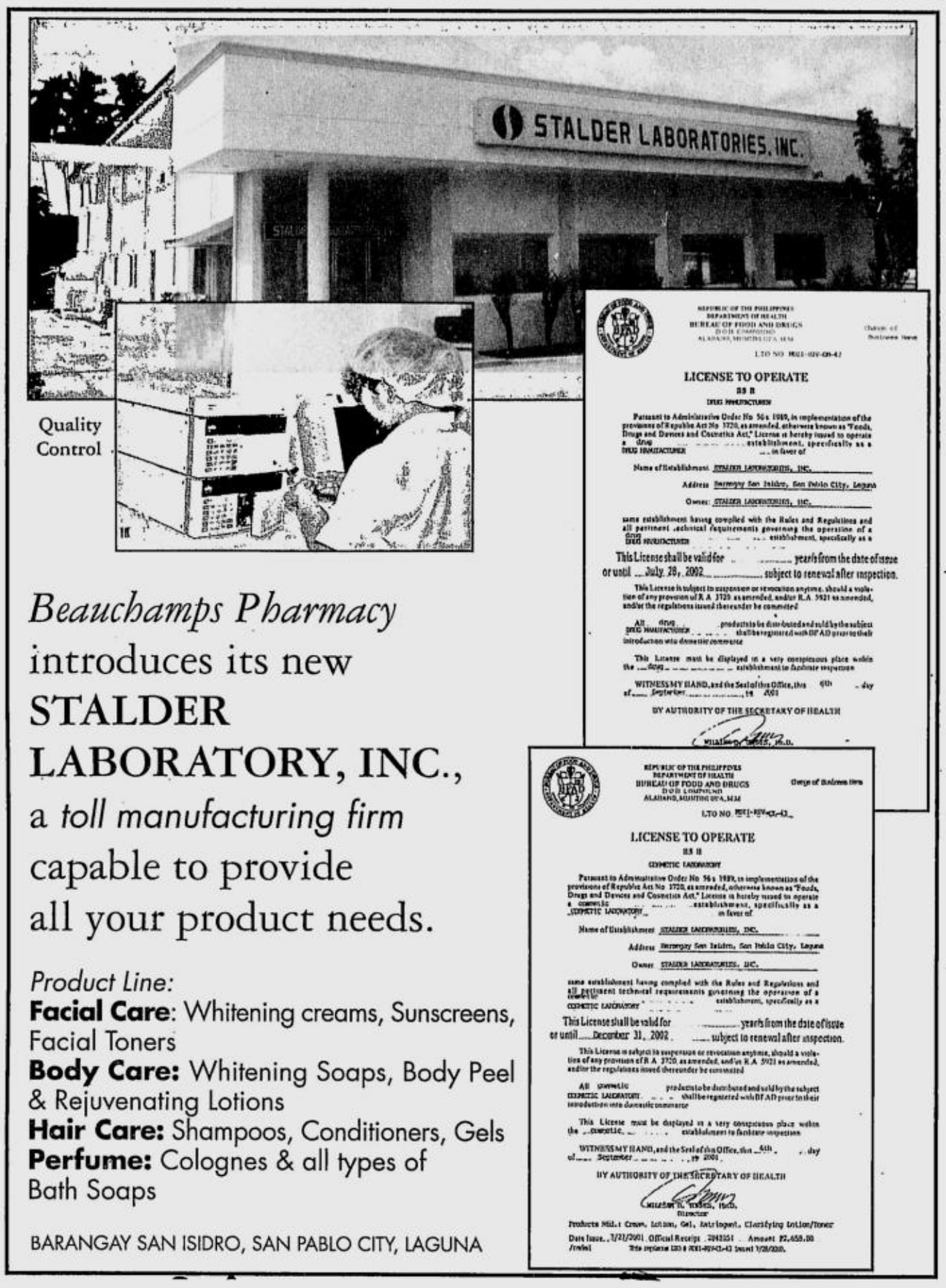

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PDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

From left: Drs. Sylvia Jacinto, director, Francisca C. Roa, vice president; Lorna F. Frez, director; Elizabeth Amelia V. Tianco, president; Benjamin B. Bince, secretary; Clarita C. Maaño, immediate past president; Evelyn R. Gonzaga, director; Georgina C. Pastorfide, director; Daisy K. Ismael, director. Not in picture: Dr. Vermén M. Verallo-Rowell, director.

A closer look at your skin

REGULAR self-examination of your skin is important. It alerts you to changes which may signify the presence of disease or cancerous growth.

Do you have spots on your skin, a boil, or a wound that does not heal? Do you have new growths on your skin that can have malignant or cancerous potential? Do you have excessive hair growth or hair loss? Is your skin becoming dry or scaly?

You can use the ABCD's (Asymmetry, Border, Color, Diameter) of malignant change to guide you in evaluating changes in your moles. Is the half of a mole unlike the other? Is it poorly circumscribed or are its edges irregular? Does its color vary from one area to another, with shades of brown, black, white, red, or blue? Is it about the size of a pencil eraser (6 mm) or larger?

If you have any doubt about what you find on your skin, consult a board-certified dermatologist.

Examine yourself

Performing self-examination is quite easy. You will need sufficient light (natural daylight is best). Stand before a full-length mirror. Look at your body front and back, right and left side with your arms raised for better skin exposure. Inspect both of your arms and legs and your navel, too. Examine your palms and soles, your nails as well as the spaces between your fingers and toes.

For body areas which are difficult to see, use a hand mirror. Look at your scalp (you may need to part your hair for better view), the back of your neck, your back, buttocks, and genitals. You also need to check the insides of your mouth.

A skin expert's opinion

A dermatologist is a doctor of medicine with specialty training in the care of the skin, hair, nails, and mucous membranes (the wet skin of the mouth and the genitals).

When you visit one, expect to be asked a lot of questions about your complaints. You may also be asked to remove all your clothes including your undergarments, so that the doctor can thoroughly assess your skin.

Once a diagnosis has been made, the dermatologist will explain what the problem is and how best to manage it. It is perfectly all right to ask questions and to voice your doubts and apprehensions. You may ask other options for treatment and how each will benefit you. If a surgical procedure is contemplated, know what it is for, how experienced the doctor is, what to expect in terms of pain and discomfort, and how to care for the operated part afterwards.

Feel free to express to your dermatologist your wish to think it over or get a second opinion. But remember, putting treatment off indefinitely may compromise you.

A CLOSER/ F7

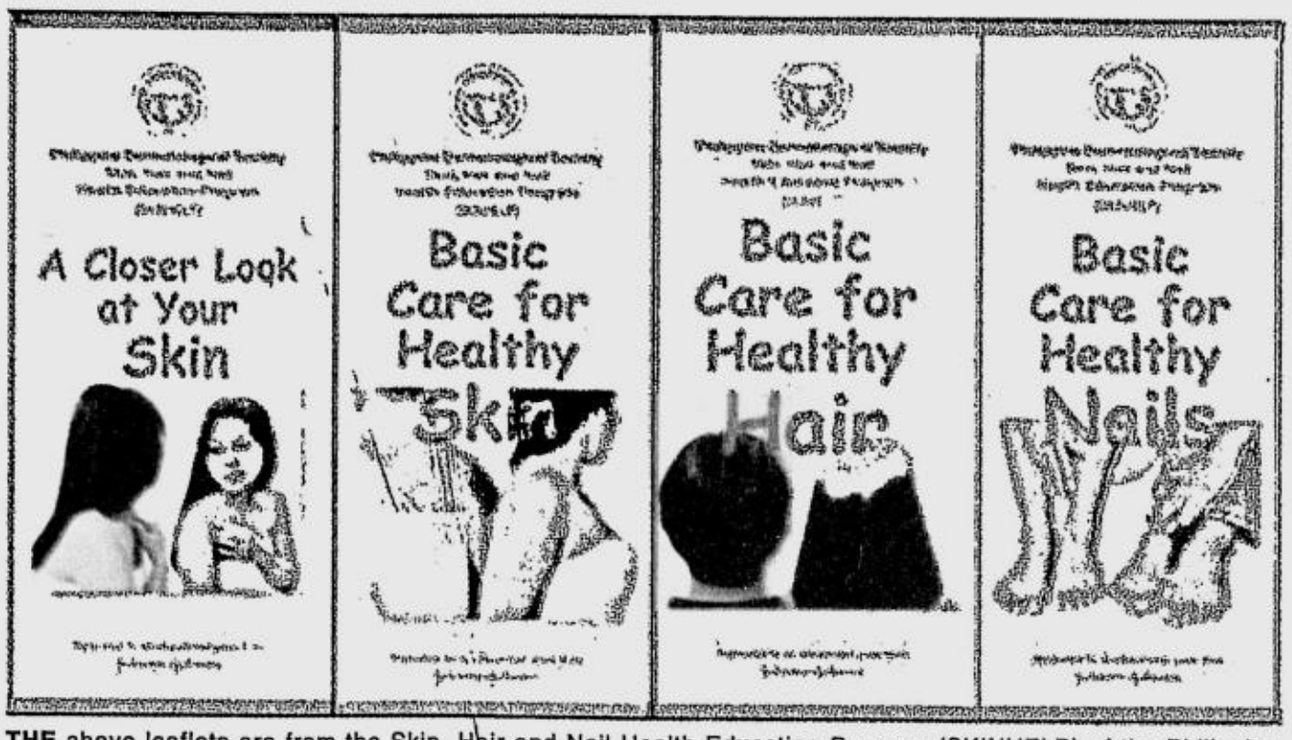
SKIN WATCH

DR. NENITA L. ALBERTO
Assistant Chief, Section of Dermatology
UP-Philippine General Hospital

NEW ANTIFUNGAL AGENT NOW AVAILABLE IN THE PHILIPPINES

Superficial fungal infections rank as one of the most common skin disorders in the Philippines. Butenafine hydrochloride, a new antifungal agent closely related to the allylamine family, has recently been introduced in the country. Butenafine hydrochloride is a benzylamine derivative marketed in Japan since 1992 and in the United States since 1996. It is indicated for the treatment of a variety of superficial fungal infections. It is highly active against dermatophytes, mold (Aspergillus), and Candida species. Its potency in vitro equals and even exceeds other allylamines. Studies done abroad showed that topical application of Butenafine cream exhibited longer retention in the skin up to 72 hours, particularly in the horny layer (stratum corneum), where the fungi resides. It therefore provides extended antifungal activity and relief of symptoms in patients with fungal infections. Once daily application of Butenafine cream has resulted in a significant clinical improvement within seven days with continuous improvement on the second to fourth weeks of treatment with no adverse reaction noted. Clinical studies to assess the therapeutic efficacy of butenafine were done not only in Japan but also in the United States. Results of a local clinical study showed that butenafine is also effective against Candida infections of both skin and nails.

However, patients must be aware that not all pruritic or itchy skin rash or lesion is due to fungal infection. Improper use of currently available over-the-counter (OTC) antifungal preparations may cause adverse effects to patients. It is therefore important to consult a dermatologist for any suspected fungal infection before initiating therapy.



THE above leaflets are from the Skin, Hair and Nail Health Education Program (SKINHELP) of the Philippine Dermatological Society under an educational grant from Johnson and Johnson, Philippines. They also come in Pilipino versions. A new set of leaflets on common bacterial, fungal and viral skin infections will be launched during this year's celebration of National Skin Disease Detection and Prevention Week.

A closer look at your skin (From page F6)

Should medication be prescribed, know what it is for. Its proper use must be clear to you. Follow instructions carefully to ensure its effectiveness. Also, ask if other drugs that can be bought at the local drugstore may be substituted for the one prescribed.

You should not freely recommend any treatment or product that works for you. It may not work the same way for others.

Tips for choosing a competent dermatologist

Many can claim to be a "skin expert"—someone who is not even a doctor of medicine, a doctor who did not undergo specialty training, and a doctor who underwent rigorous training in dermatology. It would be best to go to a dermatologist duly certified by the Philippine Board of Dermatology which gives the specialty board examinations for the Philippine Dermatological Society.

• The basis of your choice should be the dermatologist's qualifications and not advertising.

• A competent dermatologist takes down your complete medical history.

• He/she discusses with you all treatment options (including side effects of treatment and recovery).

• Know your doctor's experience in performing procedures—which type, how many, how often.

• Be sure you are thoroughly and correctly informed of the nature of a treatment or procedure, especially if it is cosmetic or for beautification, before giving your consent.

• Remember, skin treatments and procedures may have serious consequences when done inappropriately.

Consult a board-certified dermatologist for your concerns regarding the skin, hair and nails.

Thinning Hair?

Consult your dermatologist or call our Hotline

878-6338

for more information about Male Pattern Hair Loss

Male Pattern Hair Loss (MPHL)
affects approximately 50% of men at some point in their lives.[1]
In MPHL, hair follicles gradually shrink producing smaller, almost invisible hairs. MPHL often begins as thinning of the hair of the scalp, often resulting in a receding hairline and/or balding on the top of the head.

Today, doctors understand more about an underlying cause of MPHL.
Many have prescribed a scientifically-proven treatment*
that can increase hair growth and prevent further hair loss.

If you feel you may be suffering from MPHL,
consult your dermatologist today!
Or call 878-6338 or 1-800-1-888-6737 (for those outside Metro Manila),
or visit www.merck.com for more information about MPHL.

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8767 Paseo de Roxas
Makati City

*THIS TREATMENT IS FOR MEN ONLY

Reference: 1. Whiting Da, Hows don FL. Androgenetic Alopecia: Color atlas of differential diagnosis of hair loss. Cedar Grove, NJ: Cranfield Publishing, 1996: 18-23

GRANDSLAM FOR CDO-FOODSPHERE

CDO-Foodsphere Inc. bagged for the third consecutive time the much-coveted best meat processing plant award from the Department of Agriculture through the National Meat Inspection Commission. The photograph shows company officials Amy D. Cuna, VP for manufacturing and Rene S. Hernandez (rightmost), senior manager, receiving the citation plaques from NMIC executive director Efren C. Nuestro and actress Sharmaine Arnaiz in Diliman, Quezon City. The firm was cited by an inter-agency committee composed of DA-NMIC, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Department of Health for having the most modern technoplant and world-class systems that ensure the processing of high-quality meat products.

KFC, MISTER DONUT 'PASASALAMAT'

Jesus Montemayor (right), president of Ramcar Food Group, for KFC and Mister Donut, recently led the recognition for its employees called '5 Years Pasasalamat Awards' which was held at the Philam Theatre in UN Avenue, Manila. Shown is Montemayor awarding the plaque of recognition to KFC R&D manager Lenore Pujalte together with KFC VP for operations Marilyn K. Reyna. A company tradition, the 'Five Years Pasasalamat Awards' aims to acknowledge employees for their loyalty and commendable service to the company.

Circulatory problems in the elderly

A FREE lecture on "Circulatory Problems in the Elederly" will be conducted on the 2nd Health and Organic Show 2001 today, Nov. 4, from 1:45 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the SM Megatrade Hall in SM Megamall, Edsa. Geriatric specialist Dr. Gary S. Sy will discuss the circulatory problems prevalent among the elderly, such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, poor memory, varicose veins, diabetes, and erectile dysfunction of vascular origin. For more information, call Angie of Fiera de Manila at 896-0637 or 39, Life Extension Medical Center at 400-4205, and Daisy of Macropharma Corp. at 632-9070 and 634-8805.

HRCI training programs for November, December

HUMAN Resource Consultants Inc. (HRCI) will be conducting a series of workshops this November and December. These programs include "Appreciation Course on Personnel Testing" (Nov. 7); Workshop on IQ and Aptitude Testing" (Nov. 26 and 27); and Personality Testing Workshop" (Dec. 3 and 4). HRCI's workshops on testing will introduce new psychological tests that the company is currently distributing. The programs will be held at the HRCI conference room at Room 905, Hanston Building, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center. For details and other inquiries, call Myra or Clarisse at 633-7078 or 633-7079.

Coast Guard captain alumni association prexy

PHILIPPINE Coast Guard Captain Elpidio Padama, a Doctoral Program graduate, was recently elected interim president of the Colegio de San Juan de Letran Graduate School of Business Administration Alumni Association. Elected with Padama were Dr. Armando Lascano (vice president); Dr. Helena F. Cabrera (secretary); Dr. Eduardo Juangco (assistant secretary); Dr. Alfredo Dizon (treasurer); Richard Roxas (assistant treasurer); Leonides Valencia (public relations officer); and Danny Cedana (auditor). The interim officers elected during the alumni gathering of the Graduate School of Saint Liem dela Paz Student Center in Muralla, Intramuros, will coordinate with the Alumni Foundation in planning a milestone gathering of alumni on Saturday, Dec. 15.

Early Christmas bargains at livelihood center

A PLACE for bargain hunters and shoppers is the Livelihood Trade and Exhibition Center (LTEC) on East Avenue near Edsa, Quezon City, in front of the Land Transportation Office. There, two bargain events will be held for early Christmas shoppers. The organizer is Mikarla Enterprise, in cooperation with the Social Security System (SSS). Stalls are now open for rent. The first bargain event, dubbed Gifts, Toys and Corporate Giveaways for Christmas, is ongoing until Nov. 30. The second event is the Christmas Bargain Bonanza to be held from Dec. 2 to 30. Interested parties can visit LTEC from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., or call Melvin, Alpha, Jojo or Odel at 925-7212, 925-7365, or 0917-848-0612.

Spanish food fest highlights trade mission

A ONE-DAY gustatory showcase by Spanish companies will cap a major Spanish trade mission that seeks to explore business alliances and other trade and investment opportunities between Spain and the Philippines. The Spanish Food and Beverage Festival will be held at the Shangri-La Hotel Makati on Monday, Nov. 5. The event is spearheaded by the economic and commercial office of the Embassy of Spain and the Spanish Institute for Foreign Trade (ICEX). Spain is known to be among the best wine producers in the world as well as one of the principal practitioners of the "Mediterranean Diet" which is considered to be the healthiest in the world. For more details, call 891-8635 or 834-7505.

DLSU health sciences campus' first golf tourney

DE LA SALLE University Health Sciences Campus will hold its first St. Bro. Miguel Febres de Cordero Open Golf Tournament on Nov. 5 at the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, Cavite. The tournament is held to raise funds for the construction of the Health Sciences Campus-University Chapel. Sponsors for the tournament are San Miguel Corp. and Euromed Laboratories. For particulars, call Armando D. Sayao, MD at (046) 416-0226 loc. 266/301, e-mail mktgads@hsc.dlsu.edu.ph or Ricardo R. Robrigado, MD at (046) 416-0226 local 163 or e-mail registrar@hsc.dlsu.edu.ph. The event is part of the LaSallian Week 2001 celebration.

Get charged at the Tang Orange Playworld

ARE you running out of creative ideas to keep your active kids from being bored and having nothing to do? Worry not as Hi-Nutrition Tang, now charged with calcium, gives your children a new and exciting challenge for tireless kids. Get your active kids get charged with calcium at the Tang Orange Playworld at the Activity Center of the Alabang Town Center from now until Nov. 8. The Tang Orange Playworld promises fun-charged activities: the Tang Orange Crawl, Power Climb, Vertical Limit High Jump and Shoot and Score. Have your kids' faces painted with fun shapes and colors and get free Karate-do lessons. Just buy a 500-gram pack of Tang Orange at the Tang Orange booth for your child to enter.

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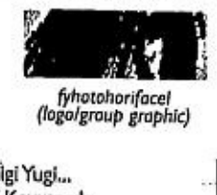
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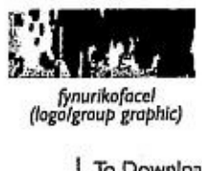
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- ☑ Possesses a pleasing and dynamic personality, impeccable integrity and good moral character
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- ☑ Computer literate

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Mandaluyong City

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JOB MARKET

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER
- Male or Female but preferably Male
- College graduate, preferably engineering course
- Not less than 30 years old
- With extensive knowledge of ISO 9000
- With 5 years supervisory experience in a manufacturing plant

ASST. PRODUCTION MANAGER
- Male
- Not less than 30 years old
- College Graduate, preferably engineering course
- With at least 5 years in plastic injection molding operation
- With at least 5 years supervisory experience

BOOKKEEPER
- Male or Female
- BSBA, BSC or BS Accounting graduate
- With 1 year experience in the field of accounting
- Highly proficient in Microsoft Excel and Word

Interested applicants are requested to mail and/or handcarry their comprehensive resumé with a most recent photograph, transcript of records and NBI clearance at:

The Human Resources Department
6th Floor One Corporate Plaza Building
845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City
Tel. No. 813-65-15

PIONEER AND GROW!!!

NEWLY OPENED IMUS OFFICE

A LEADING FIRM in the industry has brought its services closer to the people of Southern Metro Manila. We are now ready to interview applicants for **MANAGEMENT TRAINEES** and for **POTENTIAL, JUNIOR and SENIOR Management Positions. Men and Women Graduates, 20 to 35 years old, with or without work experience** may apply.

Preferred are those with ambition to build a highly rewarding career, those who are in hurry to make BIG in the business world must be typically **hardworking, highly competent, assertive and can fit well in people-oriented environment. Those presently employed need to apply.**

THOSE WHO CAN MAKE IT can expect rigid **Management Training** in preparation for Management-level yet to be filled up; **P12,000.00 monthly initial compensation. Travel Opportunities, fringe benefits, Career Growth, etc...** Visit us for interview on **November 5 (Monday), November 6 (Tuesday), and November 7 (Wednesday) 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

APPLY PERSONALLY IN PROPER BUSINESS ATTIRE, BRING YOUR RESUMÉ WITH YOUR RECENT 2X2 PICTURE TO OUR NEW OFFICE AT:

IMUS BRANCH
Room 201 Purificacion Building, Aguinaldo Hi-way
Palico II, Imus, Cavite
(Infront of Export Bank, atop GSIS Family Bank
from SM Bacoor, going to Imus, after Rojonet to your right)

MOVE TO GREATER HEIGHTS WITH ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S LEADING RESEARCH ORGANIZATION!

PSRC | RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL

A prestigious and leading research agency affiliated with the largest customized research organization in the world invites aggressive and self-motivated individual to fill the following post:

A. SENIOR RESEARCH EXECUTIVE
- Has working experience in the selection and application of appropriate market research techniques, and must demonstrate a good understanding of their strategic and commercial implications
- Capable of dealing with corporate clients and is confident to analyze and present research results to senior management
- Natural team player, possess leadership and coordinating skills in implementing research projects (i.e., working with support groups from other units of the company)
- Has 3-4 years working experience doing or coordinating researchers - from another research agency, an ad agency, business or economic think-tanks; or from using market research at the client-user side
- Graduate of Behavioral Science, Statistics, Business Economics, Marketing, Sociology, Communications Research or Economics with above-average scholastic standing
- Adept with data, excellent writing and communication skills

B. RESEARCH EXECUTIVE
- At least one year working experience in any field
- Not more than 26 years old, graduate of Behavioral Science, Statistics, Business Economics, Marketing, Sociology, Communications Research or Economics with above-average scholastic standing
- Familiar with or has basic knowledge of research (design, implementation, data processing, and analysis)
- Adept with data, analytical, excellent writing and communication skills

The role of the above individuals will be varied and challenging; within a friendly team environment; and it also offers very good career prospects.

If you are interested, please send your CV with photo, academic credentials or transcript of records to:

Human Resources Department
PHILIPPINE SURVEY & RESEARCH CENTER, INC. - RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL
PSRC Building, Calbayog corner Kanlaon Streets
Highway Hills, Mandaluyong City

E-mail address: research@psrc-ri.com.ph

WELL-KNOWN JEANS COMPANY

is in need of:

NATIONAL SALES MANAGER

- graduate of Marketing or any related course
- between 25-35 years old
- can handle sales operation for the brand nationwide
- knowledgeable in retail account and inventory management, planning and forecasting
- preferably with experience in dealing with department stores nationwide
- has pleasing and dynamic personality
- of good moral character
- has excellent oral, written and interpersonal skills
- computer literate

DESIGNER/MERCHANDISER

- graduate of Clothing Technology or any design related course
- between 21 to 30 years old
- knowledge in the technical aspect of garment production and merchandising an advantage
- with experience is preferred but new graduates may apply
- has pleasing and dynamic personality
- of good moral character
- has excellent oral, written and interpersonal skills
- computer literate

COMPANY CAN GIVE VERY COMPETITIVE SALARY AND BENEFITS

You may send your resumé with latest 2x2 photo to:

MK-76
c/o Classified Ads Division
Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue,
Makati City 1226

UCPB GENERAL Insurance Co., Inc.

A member of the UCPB Group and an ISO 9002 certified company belonging to the top ten non-life insurance companies in the Philippines. We seek highly qualified and motivated individuals to fill-up our present job vacancies:

MARKETING ASSISTANTS

- ☑ Graduate of any business course
- ☑ Not over 30 years old
- ☑ With basic knowledge of underwriting and claims processes
- ☑ Excellent communication skills
- ☑ Computer literate (MS Applications)
- ☑ Must be willing to be assigned outside Metro Manila

ASSISTANT AUDITORS

- ☑ Graduate of BS Accountancy
- ☑ CPA an advantage
- ☑ Not over 26 years old
- ☑ With auditing experience for at least 6 months
- ☑ Very analytical
- ☑ Good communication skills
- ☑ Computer literate (MS Applications)

UNDERWRITERS

- ☑ Graduate of any business course
- ☑ Not over 25 years old
- ☑ Knowledge of basic underwriting processes an advantage
- ☑ Good communication skills
- ☑ Computer literate (MS Applications)

PROCESSORS / CLERKS

- ☑ Graduate of any Business course
- ☑ Not over 25 years old
- ☑ Good communication skills
- ☑ Computer literate (MS Applications).

Applicants may bring their resumé, Transcript of Records and recent 2x2 colored picture; or

Mail their application letters with the above documents to:
Human Resources and Administrative Services Department, UCPB Gen, 24th Floor LKG Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City or e-mail to personnel@ucpbgen.com - **strictly no attachments.** *Previous applicants need not apply.*

AMELLAR CORPORATION

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Our partners opened an office in Cebu to service our expanding client-base. We need the following for our Visayas operations:

2 Training/Analytical Data Controllers (T/ADC)

- Cebu-Based but currently in Luzon
- Very Responsible
- Willing to Study and Learn Frequently
- Willing to Travel within Visayas and Mindanao
- Must Pass the Company Exam and Interview
- Preferably New Graduates w/out Old Technology Mindsets

2 Business Development Assistants (BDA)

- Cebu-Based but Currently in Luzon
- Confident, Friendly, and Personable
- Willing to Travel within Visayas and Mindanao
- Must Pass the Company Exam and Interview
- Preferably New Graduates w/out Traditional Marketing Mindsets

Compensation Package Applicable to Both Positions

Three (3) Months Training	PhP7,500/Month Allowance
Starting Pay	PhP10,000/Month Plus Incentives and Bonuses

The company reviewer will be made available only to the 20 best T/ADC applicants who shall be eligible to take the Company Exam. Selected BDA applicants only will be called for the exam.

Send your resumé and cover letter to:

The Technology Managers c/o the Administrative Officer
OLTP and GIS Divisions
Amellar Corporation
46 April Street, Congressional Village, Project 8, Quezon City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

TELEPHONE OPERATOR

- At least 4 years of college education leading to any formal degree
- 1 to 3 months related experience
- Must have a pleasant voice
- With good communication skills

CIRCULATION FIELDMEN

- a college graduate preferably BS Management or Marketing
- Preferably with experience as Circulation Fieldmen
- With above-average intellectual capacity
- Resourceful and hardworking
- Must be willing to work early morning

Mail your application letter, comprehensive resumé to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

E-mail: **recruitment@inquirer.com.ph**

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

- ☑ College graduate
- ☑ 24-30 years old
- ☑ Honest and hardworking
- ☑ Proficient in oral and written communication
- ☑ Willing to undergo training
- ☑ Preferably with selling experience
- ☑ To call on hospitals and clinics in Metro Manila and nearby provinces

Bring letter of application, biodata, transcript of records and I.D. pictures to:

Goldstar Medical Systems Inc.
U304 Metropolitan Terraces Condominium Building
Metropolitan Avenue corner Sacred Heart Street
Makati City 1203

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

SALES/ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

- ☒ College graduate/Medical course/Business related course
- ☒ Preferably Nurse who may handle patient as well
- ☒ At least one year experience in selling preferably in medical supplies
- ☒ Female, single, 22 to 30 years old
- ☒ Computer literate
- ☒ Pleasing personality and proficient in oral and written communications
- ☒ Friendly and able to relate well with customers

TECHNICAL/SERVICE ENGINEER

- ☒ ECE graduate
- ☒ Preferably licensed
- ☒ Computer literate
- ☒ At least one year experience
- ☒ Excellent in interpersonal relations and have good work habits
- ☒ 22 to 28 years old
- ☒ Preferably with Driver's License

Interested applicants may submit or e-mail their resumé with 2x2 picture to:

MEDTRONIX Medical Supplies & Equipment
Suite 407 Pasda Mansion
#77 Panay Avenue corner Timog, Quezon City
medtronx@philonline.com

SYKES SM

Real People. Real Solutions.

Sykes Asia, Inc. is a global leader in providing customer support services to technology-enabled companies. These services are delivered through multiple communication channels encompassing phone, e-mail and web.

From its Manila Call-Center, Sykes currently supports 15 clients in 6 languages, handling the transactions throughout Asia, Europe and the USA.

Qualified applicants are requested to submit an updated copy of their resumé with their transcript of records and 2x2 photo to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
4/F San Miguel Properties Center
St. Francis Avenue, Ortigas Center
Mandaluyong City
Fax: + 632 - 910 - 1559
Email: hrd@man.ph.sykes.com
http://www.sykes.com

Quality Assurance Assistant Manager (QA AM)

- ☑ BS Industrial Engineering graduate with at least 3 years supervisory experience
- ☑ At least 3 years experience in implementing quality standards, a must
- ☑ Quality assurance experience in a call center, preferred
- ☑ Excellent English communication skills, including phone handling skills
- ☑ Proven excellence in business writing and negotiation skills
- ☑ Adept in Microsoft Office, MS Outlook and the Internet

Customer Service Representatives (EURO CSR)

- ☑ College graduate of any 4 or 5 year course
- ☑ Excellent typing skills; working knowledge on different computer applications and the Internet
- ☑ Strong customer service orientation and willing to work on shifting schedule
- ☑ Fluent in any European language (Spanish, French, German, Italian)

Technical Support Engineers – Asian Languages (TSE – Asian Lang)

- ☑ College graduate of any 4 or 5 year course
- ☑ Strong customer service orientation and willing to work on shifting schedule
- ☑ Has working knowledge on the Internet and other computer applications
- ☑ Fluent in any of the following language:
  - ✓ Mandarin
  - ✓ Korean
  - ✓ Japanese

Technical Support Engineers (English TSE)

- ☑ College graduate of any 4 or 5 year course
- ☑ Basic understanding of computer architecture and dial-up connections
- ☑ Working knowledge on Windows platform, Microsoft applications and the Internet
- ☑ Strong customer service orientation and willing to work on shifting schedule
- ☑ Excellent verbal and written English communication skills

JRun Technical Support Engineers (JR TSE)

- ☑ Adept in JAVA Programming and is capable of providing general JRun installation and configuration assistance and must have a familiarity with HTTP specifications
- ☑ Technical knowledge on any Macromedia product or previous experience in products of a similar nature in a commercial environment required
- ☑ Multimedia and/or Internet development experience with expertise on ASP, JSP,Java, VBScript, XML and other related programming languages
- ☑ Hands-on experience on any or all of the following platforms: Windows (Win 95, 98, 2000, NT), Macintosh (OS 8 and above), UNIX (Linux, Solaris or HP/UX)
- ☑ Extensive experience in HTML, Servlet programming, networking configuration, TCP/IP and advanced software troubleshooting

ColdFusion Technical Support Engineers (CF TSE)

- ☑ Experience with ColdFusion or ColdFusion Studio
- ☑ Technical knowledge in any Macromedia product or previous experience in products of a similar nature in a commercial environment required
- ☑ Hands-on experience on any or all of the following platforms: Windows (Win 95, 98, 2000, NT), Macintosh (OS 8 and above), UNIX (Linux, Solaris or HP/UX)
- ☑ Extensive experience in HTML, webservers, networking configuration, TCP/IP and advanced software troubleshooting
- ☑ Basic knowledge of RDBMS and JavaScript

Macromedia Technical Support Engineers (MTSE)

- ☑ Technical knowledge in any Macromedia product (Dreamweaver, Flash, Fireworks, Authorware, Director, Freehand, UltraDev)
- ☑ Multimedia and/or Internet development experience with expertise on ASP, Javascript, JSP. Java, VBScript, XML and other related programming languages
- ☑ Hands-on experience in any or all of the following platforms: Windows, Macintosh or Unix
- ☑ Extensive experience in HTML, webservers, networking configuration, TCP/IP and advanced software troubleshooting

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EasyCall Contact Center located at Mandaluyong City now requires

30 TELEMARKETERS / MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

to work in their new International Department

EARN as much as P600,000 per annum in salaries & commissions. Plus very generous CASH BONUSES.

To qualify for these positions, applicants must be:

- Fluent in English
- College Graduate
- Computer literate
- Highly motivated
- Able to work in a team environment

No experience required as full training will be given. Possible training in the UK awaits the most successful applicants.

For immediate interview and employment call (632) 5358488 and ask for Emily.

CALL NOW BEFORE SOMEBODY ELSE DOES.

Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.

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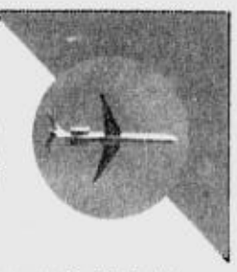

PRA Solutions #3, LLC, a subsidiary of NAVITAIRE, Inc. at Minneapolis, USA, is a multinational company that is in the forefront of innovative information technology solutions and high-value business application development for the worldwide travel and airline industries.

We are inviting qualified individuals to fill in the following key positions for our Manila-based operations:

BPO MANAGER

- *responsible for analyzing and directing related activities of the organization with supervisory responsibilities*
- *responsible for initiation and completion of development projects on-time and within the budget*
- *deals with development and resolutions of contract agreements*
- *supervises numerous teams in a department*
- must possess a University degree in the disciplines of Business and Computer courses
- previous airline revenue accounting or travel agency experience is a plus
- typically requires 4-7 years of related experience
- requires the ability to to collect, analyze and report data
- with excellent oral and written communication skills
- with strong goal-setting and supervisory skills
- preferably with some travel experience

PROGRAMMERS/ ANALYSTS

- to participate in the development and maintenance of application software components (i.e. coding and system testing)

- with working knowledge of any of the following languages: ***Visual Basic 5.0, SQL Server 7, Unix, C, JAVA & Cobol programming***
- must possess a University Degree in the disciplines of Computer Science, Mathematics or Engineering courses
- with good academic record from any of these reputable schools:
  ATENEO, DLSU, MAPUA, UP & UST
- must be self-directed and have strong leadership presence and business acumen
- with excellent oral and written communication skills

REVENUE ASSOCIATES

- to perform audit review, contract entry, and various tasks related to Business process services

- must possess a University degree from reputable schools and with good academic record
- must have good analytical skills and the ability to research and troubleshoot complicated audit matters
- able to navigate audit system conversation 'flow' with speed and accuracy
- must have good grasp of Microsoft Office Products
- with outstanding customer service orientation
- can work independently as well as in a team setting
- with excellent oral & written communication skills
- previous airline experience is a plus, but not required

COMPUTER OPERATORS

- to operate and monitor multiple operating systems with a focus on quality service delivery.
- to perform routine tasks like maintain computer equipment and their peripherals; observe peripheral equipment and error messages displayed on monitor of system terminal.
- to detect issues with batch schedules and take action based upon standard operating procedures.
- to analyze and resolve problems associated with server hardware and applications software.
- to detect, diagnose, and report related problems on servers.
- must possess a University degree from reputable schools with good academic record
- basic computer skills required
- with excellent oral & written English communication skills
- familiarity with UNIX, Lotus Notes, and NT a plus.
- must be available for coverage; willing to work long hours/on shifts
- previous computer operator experience is a plus

Interested applicants may send their resume, recent photo, and official transcript of records to:
The Human Resources Department
PRA Solutions #3, LLC / NAVITAIRE, Inc.
16th Floor, Philamlife Tower Building,
8767 Paseo de Roxas Street, Makati City
Fax No: 757-0404
Email Address: HR.Manila@navitaire.com
(text form only)
Note: Applicants with complete requirements will be given priority.

We offer a very attractive industry-standard compensation schedule as well as travel & training opportunities abroad.

insync

INSTITUTIONAL SYNERGY, INC.

Our client, a progressive multinational company and a recognized world leader in the service industry, is in urgent need of young, dynamic and highly qualified candidates for the following positions:

CREDIT CONTROL MANAGER

(code: CCM)

THE JOB: The successful candidate will manage and lead the Credit and Collection Section, ensuring the efficient and effective credit review of customers and collection of accounts receivables, as well as the preparation of management reports.

THE REQUIREMENTS: The ideal candidate is a graduate of any business course, with at least four years experience in credit and collection, two years of which is in a managerial capacity. Preference will be given to those with experience in low value but high volume transactions. He or she must have very good analytical and numerical aptitudes, as well as excellent interpersonal, negotiation, and computer skills.

CREDIT CONTROL CLERKS

(code: CCC)

THE JOB: The successful candidates will be involved in credit control and collection functions.

THE REQUIREMENTS: Candidates should be graduates of any business course, with at least two years experience in credit and collection, preferably obtained from companies with high volume transactions. Strong numerical aptitude, very good negotiation and people skills, and computer proficiency are necessary requisites.

Please send your resumé with application letter, including contact numbers, current and expected pay, and a recent photograph (indicate code on the envelope), on or before ***November 9, 2001*** *to:*

Institutional Synergy, Inc.
Unit 608, 6/F Taipan Place, Emerald Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Or, e-mail to: execsearch@insync.com.ph
Or, send via fax number: (02) 636-8113

A Multinational Company is in need of:

One (1) Telecoms Product Specialist

Male/Female

- Preferably graduate of BS ECE (but not required)
- Experience in Sales/Marketing of Data equipment for 3 years
- Must be familiar with major Telecoms carriers
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- With driver's license is an advantage

One (1) Telecoms Engineer

- Graduate of BS ECE/BS Computer Engineering (newly graduates)
- Experience in Data/PABX programming installation and commissioning is an advantage, but not necessary
- Between 21-25 years old

One (1) Marketing Assistant

Male/Female

- Agriculture or Business/Commerce Graduate with experience in Sales and Marketing

One (1) Marketing Assistant

- Experience in Sales/Marketing and Logistics is an advantage
- With driver's license is an advantage
- Not more than 40 years old
- Must be fluent in English
- Product to handle: Food/Chemical Ingredients and other raw materials Construction Materials

One (1) Secretary

- Computer literate, fluent in English
- With Good communication skills and pleasing personality

We offer above-industry standard compensation packages.

Send by mail your resumé with picture or apply personally at:

Kital Philippines Corp.
Unit 607, Taipan Place
Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center
Pasig City
E-mail: kital@kital.com.ph

NURSES-Immigrate to the USA with your family!

A Healthcare company with facilities all over USA is in urgent need of more than 300 nurses. Qualified applicants will be sponsored for immigration.
No agency fees will be collected.

If you are a **registered nurse with at least 2 years of experience** and have **passed the CGFNS exam**—send your resumé, 3 passport-sized colored pictures and **photocopies** of the following documents:

1. CGFNS certificate, TOEFL & TSE results
2. College transcript of records, college diploma
3. RN license certificate (PRC)/RN board rating
4. RN license ID (front & back)
5. Birth certificate (If married, include your spouse's & children's birth cert.)

to: The Recruitment Officer
1211 LONGFORD CIR.
ELGIN, IL.
USA 60120

As soon as we receive all the requirements, a competent lawyer will start processing your papers. You will have an immigrant visa after passing the embassy interview which means you could bring your family with you at once. This process takes about 12 months. You will be given free plane ticket to your state of destiny. We will try our best to send you to the state of your choice where you have relatives and friends. We understand the need of having people you can trust during your adjustment period.

TAYTAN INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

IMMEDIATELY NEEDS

SALES ENGINEERS

- Male / Female, Engineering course graduate, preferably with experience in sales & marketing of Consumer durable products.
- Excellent in Oral and Written communication.
- Willing to travel all over the country and undergo training.
- Willing to receive salary plus commission.

RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING OFFICERS

- Male / Female, College graduate, with pleasing personality.
- Computer Literate on desktop publishing.
- With profound experience in multi-level marketing recruitment as well as training operations.
- Knows how to motivate, supervise, monitor and control network members.

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

- Male / Female, College graduate.
- Articulate & with pleasing personality.
- Willing to undergo training.

Send your complete resume, picture to 822 Quezon Avenue, Carolina Bldg., Q.C. or email to tcn@compass.com.ph

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Join Our **PRO TEAM**
Be on the active sales rosters
We Need **400 Highly Motivated Sales People**

To earn from **10K** to **50K** + per week
We provide Professional Sales Training upon hiring

Send your resumé with ID picture to:

Box # KA-010-TI
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F Trinity Bldg.
636 T.M. Kalaw St.
Ermita Manila

TIMA MECHANICAL CO. of KUWAIT

With Accreditation # 66451 is in need of:

MECHANICAL ENGINEER & CHEMICAL ENGINEER
Eng'g. graduate, min. 4 years exp. in swimming pool field, fluent in English
AUTOCAD DRAFTSMAN
Architecture graduate or vocational course, min. 3 years experience, fluent in English
DESIGNER
Architecture graduate or vocational course, min. 2 years exp. in waterfall design
MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN
Vocational graduate, knowledge in Electronics is an advantage, min. 2 years exp. in swimming pool field
ELECTRICIAN
Vocational graduate, min. 2 years experience, Certified is an advantage
PLUMBER
Vocational graduate, min. 2 years experience, Certified is an advantage
MAINTENANCE LABOR
H.S. graduate, min. 2 years experience in swimming pool field
MASON
H.S. graduate, min. 2 years experience
SECRETARY
College grad., min: 3 years exp., with computer knowledge, exp. in Admin. is an advantage
Final Interview with Employer on November 13, 2001
All candidates must be MALE, below 35 years old, 5'2" in height, and can speak, read and understand English. Applicants must apply personally and bring 2 sets of the ff: Resumé, NBI clearance, Diploma, Cert. of Employment/Training, 2x2 picture, Passport copy, original passport & other credentials to:

A&M INTERNATIONAL MANPOWER SERVICES SPECIALIST
POEA LIC.# 229-LB-070601-NL
109 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Ugong, Pasig City / Tel. Nos. 6873252 / 6872503
No fees to be collected*Mag-ingat sa illegal recruiters*This ads is allowed under MC-2.

PHILIPPINE AXA LIFE

PHILIPPINE AXA LIFE, a joint venture between Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company, the Philippines largest financial conglomerate, and the AXA Group, one of the world's leading insurance companies has immediate job openings:

FINANCIAL EXECUTIVE
- graduate of any 4-year business related course
- at least 2 years business experience preferably in sales/customer service
- excellent oral and written communication skills
- good interpersonal skills

MARKETING OFFICER
- graduate of marketing or any 4-year business-related course
- market-driven, assertive and customer-focused
- good oral and written communication skills

TRAINING OFFICER (Central Luzon & Visayas)
- graduate of any 4-year business related course
- at least two (2) years experience as a Trainer/Instructor
- excellent communication skills
- computer literate
- good interpersonal skills

GROUP ADMIN SUPERVISOR
- graduate of any 4-year business related course
- with background in collection, reinsurance & policy issuance
- preferably with supervisory experience
- good oral and written communication skills
- good interpersonal skills

MARKETING SUPPORT ASSISTANT
- female
- graduate of any 4-year business related course
- proficient in MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint
- preferably with background in sales support
- good oral and written communication skills
- good interpersonal skills

POLICY ADMIN STAFF
- male/female
- graduate of any 4 year business related course
- computer literate
- good oral and written communication skills
- good interpersonal skills

Qualified candidates should send their resume, transcript of records and 2x2 photo not later than November 7, 2001 to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
P.O. Box 2390
Makati City 1200
Philippines

Member of the Metrobank Group

COME AND JOIN US!!!
As we elevate your career to the top!

We are a joint-venture with Mitsubishi of Japan, no. 1 in our industry and an ISO - 9001 certified company. We have vacancies for:

ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

The candidate shall be responsible for the direct supervision and control over the administrative functions of the company. He is expected to systematize administrative work and procedures. He must have extensive experience in the areas of general services, warehouse and inventory control, grounds and building maintenance, security and safety, and purchasing.

The ideal applicant must be a graduate of any course in business or engineering, preferably with MBA units. He must have at least five (5) years supervisory experience in a medium-to-large scale business entity. He must have hands-on capability in M.S. Office and holder of a driver's license.

ASSISTANT ACCOUNTING MANAGER

The candidate shall assist the Senior Manager for Administration and Finance in the supervision and control over the accounting requirements of the company. He/she is expected to systematize accounting functions and procedures. He/she must have extensive experience in the areas of payroll and payable, credit and collection, cost accounting, general accounting and financial accounting in a computerized environment.

The ideal applicant must be 30 to 40 years old, a graduate of B.S. Accountancy, and a Certified Public Accountant. He/she must have at least five (5) years experience in a similar capacity from a medium-to-large scale business entity. He/she must have hands-on capability in M.S. Office.

SALES ENGINEER

He/she will be responsible in handling sales inquiries; preparing cost estimates, bid specifications and contracts; sourcing out clients/customers and coordinating with other trade contractors. He /she must be able to market and sell Mitsubishi elevators and escalators or air-conditioning units.

The candidate must be between 20 to 28 years old and a graduate of any business or engineering related courses from a reputable school. Computer literate (MS Office and preferably AutoCAD) and holder of a valid driver's license. The ideal applicant must be aggressive, determined and good in oral and written communication. Experience in sales of the said equipment is not required but an advantage.

The successful applicants for the above positions can expect a competitive compensation package. Interested parties should apply with credentials and photo personally or by mail post-marked not later than November 10, 2001 to:

International Elevator & Equipment, Inc.
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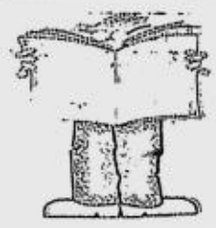

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SUNDAY

INQUIRER MAGAZINE

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

November 4, 200
Volume 1 No 35

Akiko Thomson
Still Making Waves

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The Cover Image Akiko Thomson is savoring a new career away from the swimming pool *Photograph by Mike Alquinto at the Rockwell Club*

NICE KUYA

I read the story about Tim Farrell, the Australian volunteer (**SIM**, 7 October 2001). I really admire his dedication to his work. Actually, I don't see it as his job but a vocation. It's a calling to be of service to many people, especially to children. And it's very nice to know that there are still people who care for others, and a foreigner for that matter.

I've also worked for an NGO before and I know how it feels to be able to help others. It's very fulfilling compared to monetary returns. Unfortunately, I have to give up my job for reasons that are beyond my control. But, someday, I know I will be back doing what I love—helping others.

COCO AZAGRA
kimolfindo@hotmail.com

I would just like to express my admiration for Tim Farrell. I would understand such zeal for such social work in a fresh graduate who is still full of selfless ideals. But for someone who has worked and earned comfortably for some time, it is simply awe-inspiring. Very few people would really go out on a limb just to help the less fortunate much less to keep company with them. I once had the same desire to help my community but somewhere along the way I got caught up with work and the freedom my salary afforded me. The article on Tim brought me out of the stupor. I would like to thank Cathy Guballa and Tim for making a difference.

AACASTRENCE
matoyc@yahoo.com

JERRY REMEMBERED

We, the wife, parents, children, brothers, sister, and the family of Jerry C. Diño would like to thank you for the very nice story (**SIM**, 14 October 2001) on him. It was very touching and also informative on those whose life Jerry has touched in one way or another.

DODDIE C. DIÑO JR.
dkd@bgo.csi.com.ph

Jerry Diño was a good friend of mine and I would like to extend my condolences to his loved ones. There is no doubt that he is one of the great judokas the Philippines ever had, but kindly review the records, because Jerry and John Baylon are not the only Filipino Judo Olympians. Back in the earlier years, the Philippines already had Judo Olympians, in the persons of Mr. Thomas Tan from Mapua and other great masters.

DAVID F. CARTER
Refereeing Director
Philippine Amateur Judo Association, Inc.
dcarter13@hotmail.com

FAN FAVORITE

Your issue on Filipino athletes (**SIM**, 21 October 2001) was great! They brought honor not only to themselves but to all Filipinos as well. The feature on Ms Gretchen Malalad caught my interest in particular. I became an instant fan! I was simply smitten by her beauty and skills.

ICKIS KRUMM
ickisk@yahoo.com

ATTENTION CONTRIBUTORS!

SIM strives to pay our valued contributors within three weeks of publication of an article or poem. However, to facilitate preparation of your fees – and to avoid an unnecessary trip! – please give the Cashier a call at tel. no. 897-8808 local 533 to confirm if your check is ready before visiting. Many thanks and keep them coming!

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Editor in Chief — Alya B. Honasan
Managing Editor — Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz
Associate Editor — Ruel S. De Vera
Staff Writer — Eric S. Caruncho
Graphics Designer — Chuchie Quevedo-See
Editorial Assistant — Sharon M. Felipe
Advertising & Sales Manager — Kenny Nuyda

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by Fe B. Zamora

What exactly is Pinoy pop culture? It's everything and everywhere and it's going to change the world, says culturati Gilda Cordero Fernando in a book she co-authored with visual artist Manuel G. Chaves

Pop Goes the High Priestess of Art

GILDA CORDERO FERNANDO IS NOT THE HIGH PRIESTESS OF PINOY POP. NO, NEVER WAS. NEVER WILL BE. WHAT SHE IS, SHE SAYS PROUDLY, IS QUEEN OF HIGH ART, PATRONESS OF CULTURE AND ARTS, WHO JUST HAPPENS TO BE ENAMORED WITH EVERYTHING PINOY.

Gilda's quests led her to myriad discoveries in the streets, in everything, actually. Because that is exactly where one finds the Pinoy

Ever since she could remember, Gilda has always been searching for the fount of our Pinoyhood. Her quests led her to myriad discoveries in the streets, in music, in food, fashion, films, furniture, everything, actually. Because that is exactly where one finds the Pinoy. In Everything, and Everywhere. All these discoveries Gilda, and co-author visual artist Manuel Chaves, recently compiled in one enchanting book: "Pinoy Pop Culture."

Somebody Up There must really like Gilda. All these years she had wanted nothing but to write a book on Pinoy pop. Some two years ago, Benny Chan (of Bench) asked her to do a book "that I wanted because I wanted to do a little study on Pinoy pop. But I'm an overachiever, and so I have this book."

Before that, there were the meetings which were done Pinoy-style — over lots of food. The brainstorms were always set to start around lunchtime to give Gilda an excuse to whip up a sumptuous meal. Gilda says food has a lot to do with Pinoy hospitality. It also symbolizes the unique Pinoy capacity to adapt anything foreign to the local palate.

Typical of Gilda, the book was launched properly. "We wanted to do something difficult *naman*. What's the point of doing something that is so easy?" she gushes. The launch, Pinoy Pop Showtime, held last week at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio, Makati, was a showcase of everything familiar. Darna and the snake-sprouting Valentina. Sylvia La Torre belting "*Waray-waray*." Radioactive Sago and Anna Fegi doing Pinoy rap. Personalities from arts, culture, politics, showbiz and cuisine modeling Bench t-shirts printed with pages of the book, and parading to Yoyoy Villame's anthem on physical fitness "*Mag-exercise Tayo*." The show was directed by Floy Quintos.

Overachiever Gilda: "What's the point of doing something so easy?"

Gatekeeper: co-author Manuel G. Chaves

Aegis band members and tricycle art: Pinoys abhor a vacuum

Gilda says Pinoy pop is essentially an "imitation of foreign models." This she explains in the chapter "*Lundagin Mo*, Baby!" (Go for it!). Here are excerpts:

"Open the Filipino's head and you will find: a quarter pounder hamburger, a beauty contest, a Hallmark card, an apple pie, a ticket to Disneyland, a surgically lifted nose, an English-speaking *yaya*.

"When we spray our Christmas tree white and decorate it with cotton snow, we are making a statement. When we never see a Filipino movie we are making a statement. When we instruct the *yaya* to speak to our child in English we are making a statement. We believe that the Western way of life is superior to ours. Along with that we buy a first world lifestyle with a third world economy and sink in debt.

"The Spaniard won the Filipino's heart when they gave us the Catholic religion. But by educating him with textbooks in English it was the Americans who won the Filipino's mind. It became a mental colony.

Survivors' Tales
by Eric S. Caruncho

Ex-Yano frontman Dong Abay has emerged from the darkness of depression to reclaim his songwriter's soul

Back from Pluto

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO YANO?

IN 1993, IN THE WAKE OF THE ERASERHEADS' COMMERCIAL BREAKTHROUGH, THE FOLK/PUNK BAND CRAWLED OUT OF THE ERSTWHILE "UNDERGROUND" MUSIC SCENE TO SPEW THEIR BILE ON AN UNSUSPECTING PUBLIC. SEETHING WITH CLASS HATRED AND BRISTLING WITH BARBED HUMOR, SUCH UNLIKELY HITS AS "*TRAPO*," "*TSINELAS*," "*KUMUSTA NA*?" AND THE CLASSIC "*BANAL NA ASO*" WITH ITS MADCAP "HEE HEE HEE HEE" INTRO TOOK DEAD AIM AT A VARIETY OF TARGETS, FROM RELIGIOUS HYPOCRITES TO CLUELESS *COLEGIALA* TYPES TO THE LIBERAL MIDDLE-CLASS ESTABLISHMENT.

The songwriting duo of vocalist Dong Abay and guitarist Eric Gancio coupled the authentic stink of the underclass with a sardonic lyrical bite and a knack for instantly memorable tunes. Together with bassist Onie Badiang and various occupants of a revolving drum stool, the band zoomed to the top of the charts.

Yano's self-titled 1994 debut album went quadruple platinum. The band embarked on a grueling tour schedule that had them crisscrossing the archipelago.

As a measure of the group's mainstream acceptance, February 1996 found them performing their anti-Edsa anthem "*Kumusta Na*?" at the 10th anniversary of the Edsa revolt. (The irony was, apparently, lost on the organizing committee.) To mark the occasion, Yano appeared on the cover of this magazine, riding a rag picker's pushcart on Edsa in front of the People Power monument.

And then—nothing. The band released two more unmemorable albums—both of which sold sh_t—but for all intents and purposes, it was as if they had fallen off the radar screen: one moment there, the next gone. Most people assumed that the band had simply used up their 15 minutes of fame. It happened to everyone, eventually. For a few months, Yano tried to soldier on, but lead vocalist Dong Abay was conspicuously absent. Eventually, guitarist Gancio split for his native Davao, while bassist Badiang joined Ang Grupong Pendong.

Within the music community, a few dark rumors started surfacing, most of them centering on Dong Abay. Some said the singer was in rehab, a common enough occurrence in the music biz. But others hinted that he had flipped out, suffered a nervous collapse so complete that it effectively scuttled the band's career. Some years later, the Philippine Collegian lent some credence to the latter theory. In an article on "The Most Influential UP Students of the '90s," it said that many believe the singer to have gone insane.

The truth is not quite so dramatic, but no less crippling.

"What do I tell people when they ask me where I've been for the last five years?" muses a robust-looking Dong Abay in a UP café. "*Sinasabi ko sa kanila, nagpunta ako sa* Pluto. *Kababalik ko lang. May* jet lag *pa*."

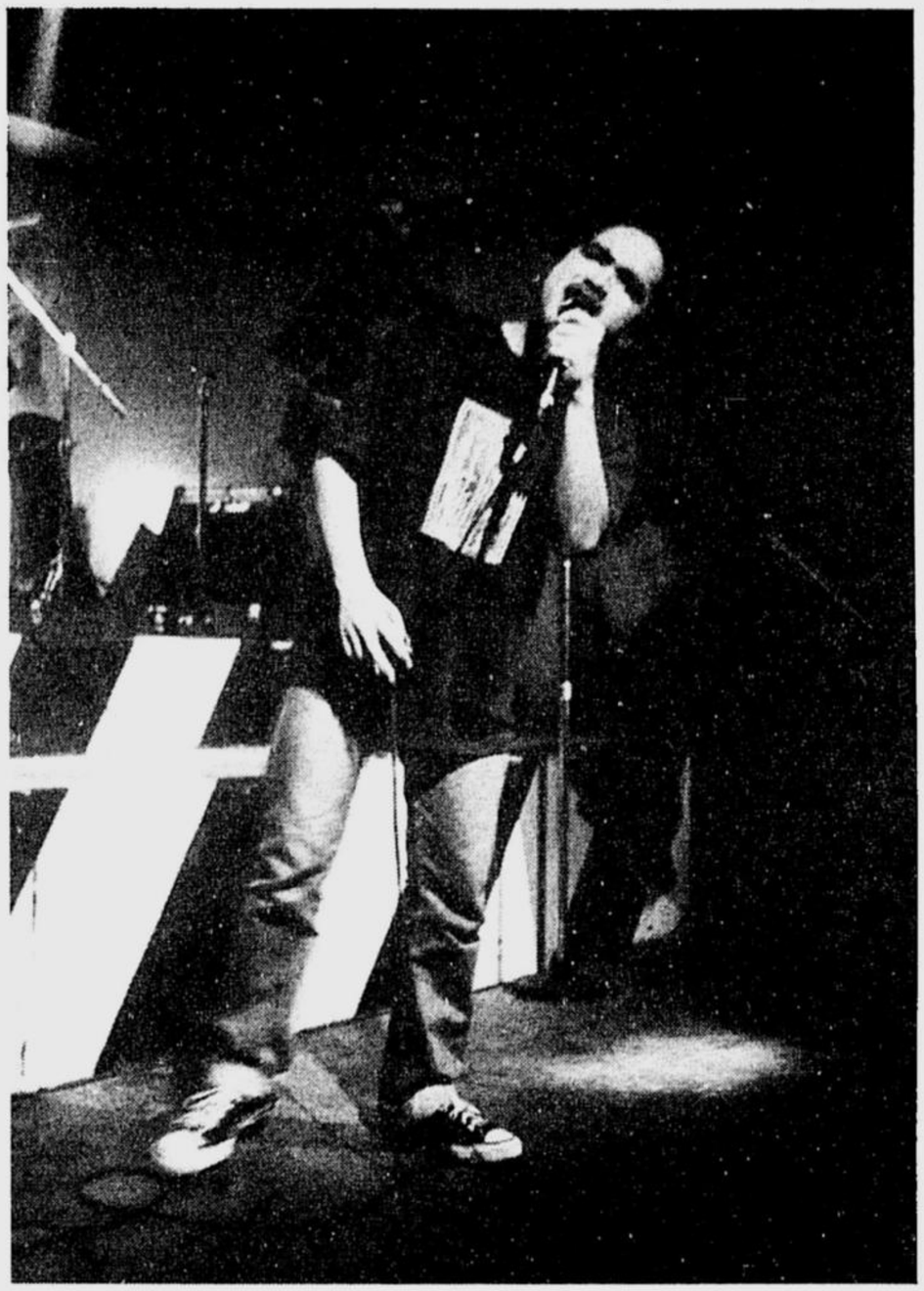
More seriously, he says: "*Tumira ako sa loob ng utak ko*. I lived inside my head for the last five years." In fact, Abay has only recently emerged from a deep, dark depression that lasted nearly five years, most of which he spent alone in bed, locked in his darkened bedroom.

"*Marami silang tawag doon* – manic, clinical, *may* bipolar *pa – hindi ko ma*-explain," says Abay. The entire episode seems like a distant, barely-remembered time. He simply stopped caring about anything, and retreated from the world into his own mind.

Warning signs began showing while Abay was still active in the band. Stressed out by the band's touring schedule, feeling the pressure for a follow-up to the first album, singing his songs in front of a live audience stopped being fun, and began to feel more like a merciless grind.

"*Hindi na ako nag-e*-enjoy," he recalls. "Feeling *ko para akong makina. Napipilitan na lang. Nakatayo na lang ako, binubuka na lang ang bibig* (I felt like a machine. I was just going through the motions)."

It came to a point when the rest of the band would pick him up at his place, they would do the gig, and he would go back home or to his hotel room – all without saying a word. Like a zombie.



Blast from the past: Yano, with Dong in the foreground, at Club Dredd, circa 1995

After a while, he stopped going to the gigs altogether. The rest of the band tried to pick up the slack. For a time, Gancio or Badiang did the vocals. Yano's third album was recorded pretty much without Abay's participation. By this time, he was past caring.

"*Hindi na ako nagsasalita*," recalls Abay. "*Ang alam ko na lang sabihin 'oo' at 'hindi'*. Stressed. *Palaging masakit ang likod ko, masakit ang ulo ko, masakit ang utak ko, nanginginig ako, wala naman akong* drugs. For the record, *hindi* drug-related *ang nangyari sa akin* (I wouldn't talk. I was in constant pain. But it was never drug-related)."

Alarmed, Abay's parents took him to a psychiatrist, who diagnosed clinical depression, and put him on a regimen of anti-depressants. But none of them, not even Prozac, seemed to work. After weeks to fruitless therapy, the psychiatrist told Abay's parents that he thought they should consider electroshock therapy. They understandably balked at the thought of having an electric current pass through their son's brain, and Abay simply stopped going to his doctor.

"*Hindi ko na alam kung ano ang nangyayari*," says Abay. "*Basta dumating sa* point *na ayaw ko nang lumabas* (I don't know what happened. I just didn't want to go out anymore)."

Finding the sight of the outside world distressing, Abay shut his windows. He even covered up the cracks with newspapers and blankets, so that the room was in total darkness.

To page 15

LOSE WEIGHT:

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by Nadia D.
Photographs by Mike Aquino

Life Beyond the Finish Line

File Photo

Akiko made a name for herself as a gold medal swimmer, as pictured in this shot from 1991

OUT OF THE WATER, AKIKO THOMSON IS STILL MAKING WAVES. IT'S BEEN FOUR YEARS SINCE THE COUNTRY'S FAVORITE WATER BABY TOWELED OFF FROM ACTIVE COMPETITION AND MOVED ON TO NORMAL ADOLESCENT LIFE. TODAY, THE STATUESQUE EX-OLYMPIAN FINDS HERSELF IMMERSED IN A WHOLLY DIFFERENT ARENA OF BROADCAST MEDIA AS ONE OF THE ANIMATED HOSTS OF THE POPULAR TV SPORTS PROGRAM, "GAMEPLAN."

Being in the public eye is nothing new to Akiko, who hogged the national spotlight at an early age. The very mention of her name conjures up images of a fiercely focused, baby-faced teenage girl slicing through the water, proudly wearing the Philippine colors as she reaped eight gold medals in five Southeast Asian games and competed in three Olympics. Yet she talks about her swimming achievements without an ounce of arrogance, as if they were everyday occurrences that happened to everyone.

The sky's the limit for this urban mermaid

"I was such a wide-eyed girl at that time," she says of her very first Olympic experience at Seoul in 1988, when she was only 13, the youngest of the Philippine delegation. "I was just a little kid, so it wasn't even scary for me. I was just having a good time!" She believes that the turning point in her swimming career happened a few years later, in 1990, when she was sent to the United States by the Philippine Olympic Committee to undergo intensive training for the Barcelona games. "Barcelona was a nerve-wracking experience for me, because I believe that was when my swimming career really took off to a different level."

Akiko takes on a wistful air when comparing her old life of intense training and competition with her more relaxed routine today. Back then, swimming literally took over her life, with two- to three-hour practices in the mornings and evenings and weight training sessions in between to keep her in prime shape. "My mom still jokes that I majored in swimming," she laughs, "but there's some truth to that; it was the only life I knew. Now that I'm older, I can't imagine doing all that."

After the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, Akiko decided to retire from the sport—and the way of life—that had catapulted her to national fame. It was a decision she made without any regret or bitterness, believing it was the

right time to move on to the next chapter. "I feel that one of my biggest accomplishments as an athlete is that I retired from the sport when I still loved it," she shares, "unlike many athletes who burn out and don't touch a ball or step on the court for a long time. I retired while still feeling so passionate about swimming." She returned to the Philippines after being away for almost seven years, and immersed herself in the family business and charity work, a stark contrast to the physically demanding lifestyle she was used to.

The only time she felt the itch to get back into the sports world was when she went to the Sydney Olympics as an official. Marching once again in the opening ceremony amidst athletes from all over the world gave her such a rush that she was determined to make a comeback—but not in swimming, as one would expect. Instead, Akiko trained seriously in Tae Kwon Do, with the same intensity as she had shown in her swimming days. However, a bad knee injury forced her to rethink her decision, and she took it as a sign to finally move on.

Yet that setback didn't pull the reins on Akiko's other ambitions outside the sports arena. One such dream that she coyly discloses is her lifelong passion for theater. "I hope to perform on stage one day! That is a passion I really want to pursue, but I realize that now is not yet the time for it." In fact, Akiko worked towards a minor in Drama, enrolling in acting classes at the University of California at Berkeley.

But acting classes may have been a pivotal factor in her clinching the widely coveted hosting job for "Gameplan." The competition was fierce—nearly 200 people sent in their applications for the limited hosting slots. It was the perfect time for Akiko to show another side of her—her quirky, theatrical side that is game for anything. One of the funniest challenges Akiko had to do was to act out President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo playing softball, which she gamely performed to everyone's amusement. Required to show off a "special talent," Akiko sang an excerpt from her favorite musical, "The King and I." Her closest friends reveal that she is a shameless songbird, one that belts out songs at the drop of a hat.

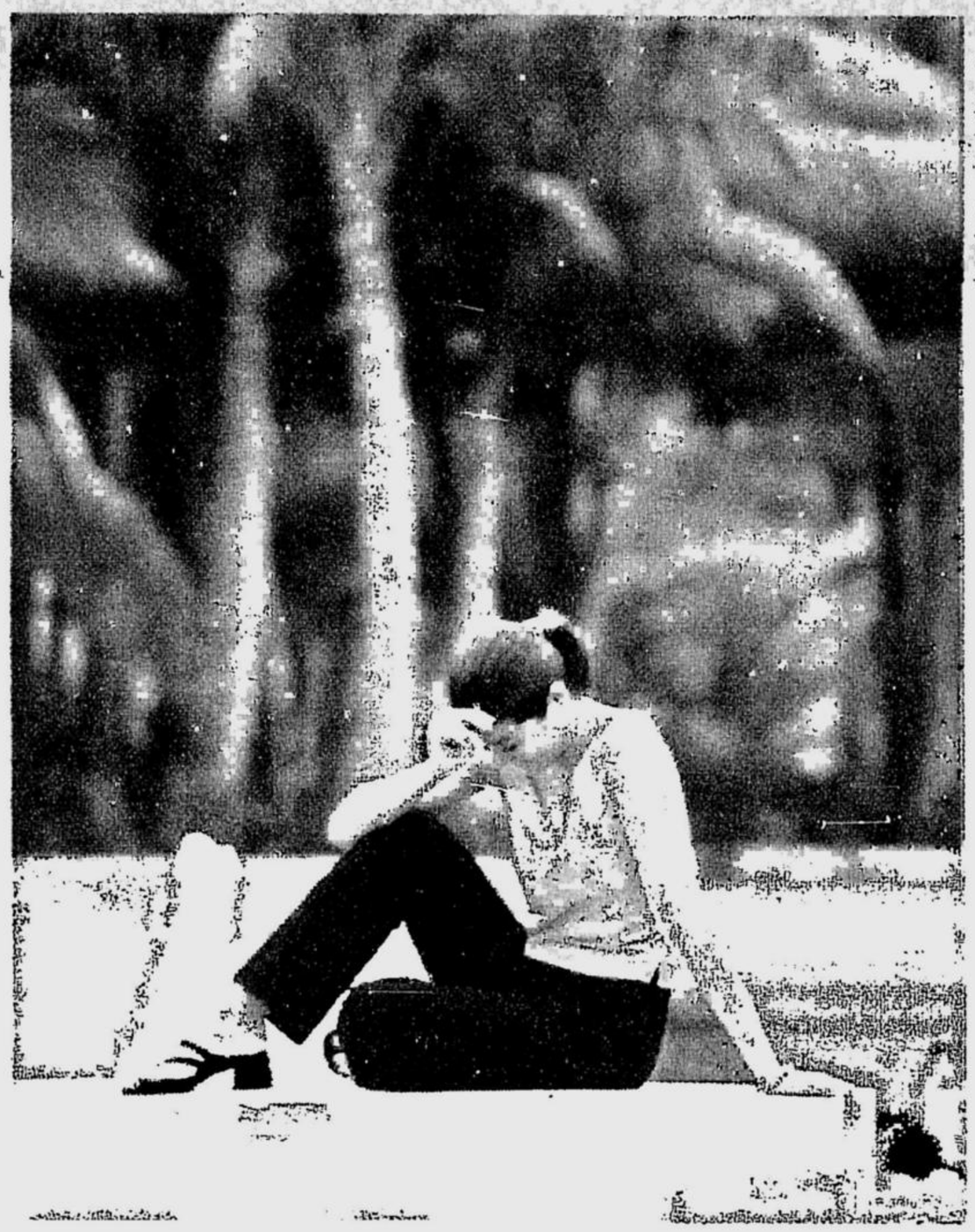
Akiko cannot contain her enthusiasm when talking about "Gameplan," where she is primed to take on an assorted array of extreme sports from mountain biking to wreck diving. Her indelible values of discipline and diligence continue to govern her working style, as observed by one of the show's producers who describes Akiko as "extremely hardworking and painfully punctual." During shoots, some of the show's producers had learned the art of pulling autograph-seeking sports fans away from the celebrated host.

Being a stickler for schedule, Akiko admits she had to adjust to the unpredictable agenda of "Gameplan." Though the differences between hosting a sports show and competing internationally are obvious, she acknowledges one similarity between the two playing fields: public criticism.

Akiko relates that she had initially gotten negative comments from some viewers who thought she was "unprepared and out of shape" on the show. She likens the experience to some of the unsavory comments she received from the press at the height of her swimming career. "I got a lot of flak before but I have accepted that it's all part of it." She shares an anecdote about her "best and worst moment," during the 1991 SEA Games in Manila, when she won before a packed stadium chanting her name. When she returned to her hotel room after winning a silver, the doorman who greeted her brazenly asked, "Ma'am *bakit nag*-second *ka lang?*" It was an honest comment that made her cry, but also realize a valuable lesson. "That was a good awakening for me when I realized that you're never going to satisfy everyone. It hurts at first, but I had to learn to deal with it. The same is true with the media."

Akiko singles out two factors that have helped her cope with pressure and kept her balanced—her supportive family and her strong faith. She suddenly takes on a serious mien when talking about her spirituality. Unlike many others her age who are reluctant to speak so openly about God, Akiko passionately shares her views on the Bible and her faith. "When I was older, I decided to commit my life to Christ and to live by His standards. My faith is the most important thing in my life right now, because it is what keeps me grounded."

It is undoubtedly that passion, that fearlessness in everything she does and believes in that propels Akiko to success. Akiko Thomson may have started it all in the water before, but today, it is the fire inside that keeps her in top form.



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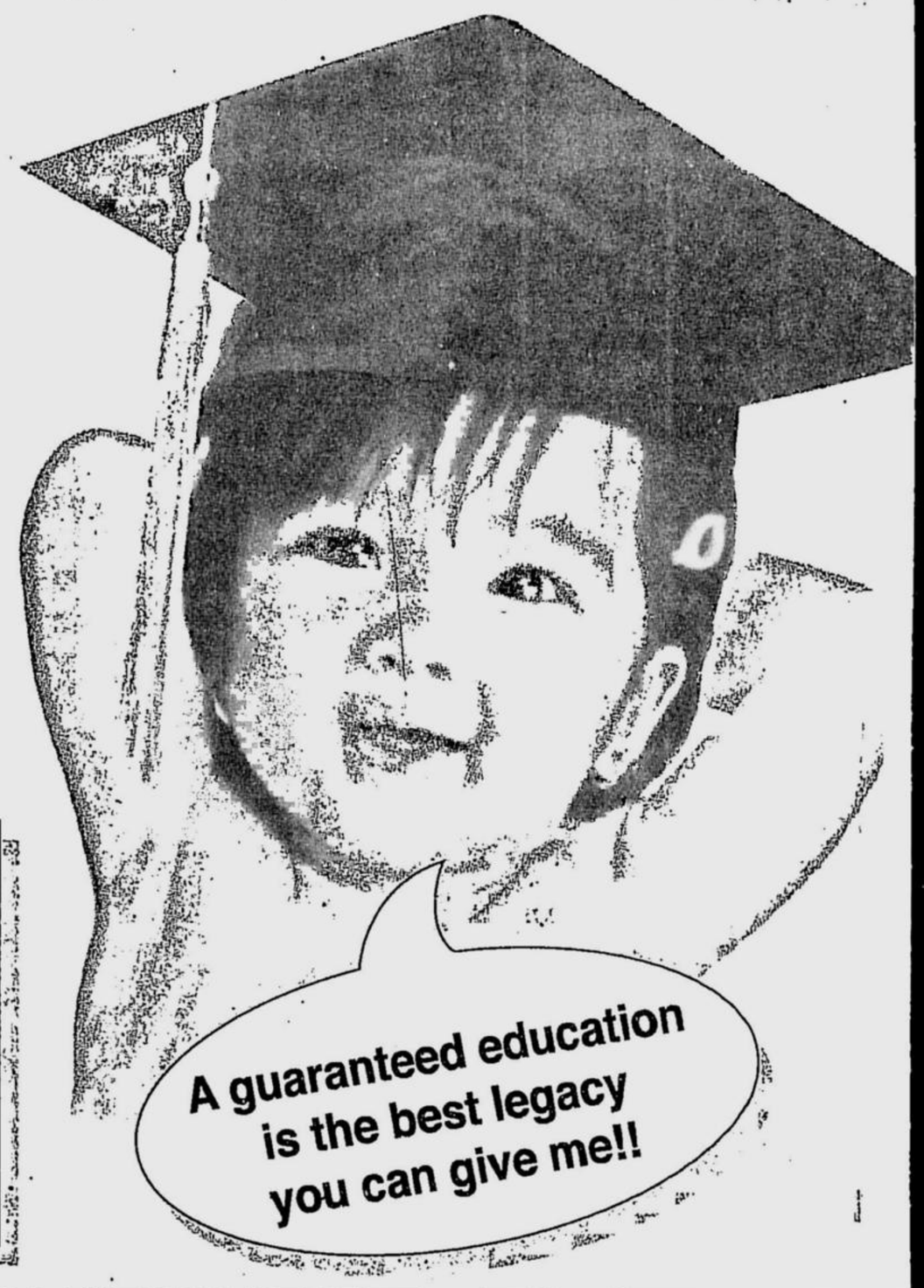

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0	P 810.45	914.65	1,572.15	1,780.55	2,333.85	2,646.45	3,095.55	3,512.35	3,857.25	4,378.25	7,665.75	8,707.75	15,282.75	17,366.75
1	842.95	954.75	1,637.15	1,860.75	2,431.35	2,766.75	3,225.55	3,672.75	4,019.75	4,578.75	7,990.75	9,108.75	15,932.75	18,168.75
2	885.35	1,005.55	1,721.95	1,962.35	2,558.55	2,919.15	3,395.15	3,875.95	4,231.75	4,832.75	8,414.75	9,616.75	16,780.75	19,184.75
3	936.55	1,065.75	1,824.35	2,082.75	2,712.15	3,099.75	3,599.95	4,116.75	4,487.75	5,133.75	8,926.75	10,218.75	17,804.75	20,388.75
4	991.75	1,130.55	1,934.75	2,212.35	2,877.75	3,294.15	3,820.75	4,375.95	4,763.75	5,457.75	9,478.75	10,866.75	18,908.75	21,684.75
5	1,052.75	1,201.95	2,056.75	2,355.15	3,060.75	3,508.35	4,064.75	4,661.55	5,068.75	5,814.75	10,088.75	11,580.75	20,128.75	23,112.75
6	1,117.35	1,277.75	2,185.95	2,506.75	3,254.55	3,735.75	4,323.15	4,964.75	5,391.75	6,193.75	10,734.75	12,338.75	21,420.75	24,628.75
7	1,188.65	1,361.05	2,328.55	2,673.35	3,468.45	3,985.65	4,608.35	5,297.95	5,748.25	6,610.25	11,447.75	13,171.75	22,846.75	26,294.75
8	1,266.15	1,451.55	2,483.55	2,854.35	3,700.95	4,257.15	4,918.35	5,659.95	6,135.75	7,062.75	12,222.75	14,076.75	24,396.75	28,104.75
9	1,352.85	1,552.05	2,656.95	3,055.35	3,961.05	4,558.65	5,265.15	6,061.95	6,569.25	7,565.25	13,089.75	15,081.75	26,130.75	30,114.75
10	1,448.85	1,663.25	2,848.95	3,277.75	4,249.05	4,892.25	5,649.15	6,506.75	7,049.25	8,121.25	14,049.75	16,193.75	28,050.75	32,338.75
11	1,561.25	1,791.85	3,073.75	3,534.95	4,586.25	5,278.05	6,098.75	7,021.15	7,611.25	8,764.25	15,173.75	17,479.75	30,298.75	34,910.75

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The Potter and the Dragon Kiln

Clay artist Jon Pettyjohn recounts how a 1,500-year-old tradition from China, Korea and Japan generated a lot of heat among local potters

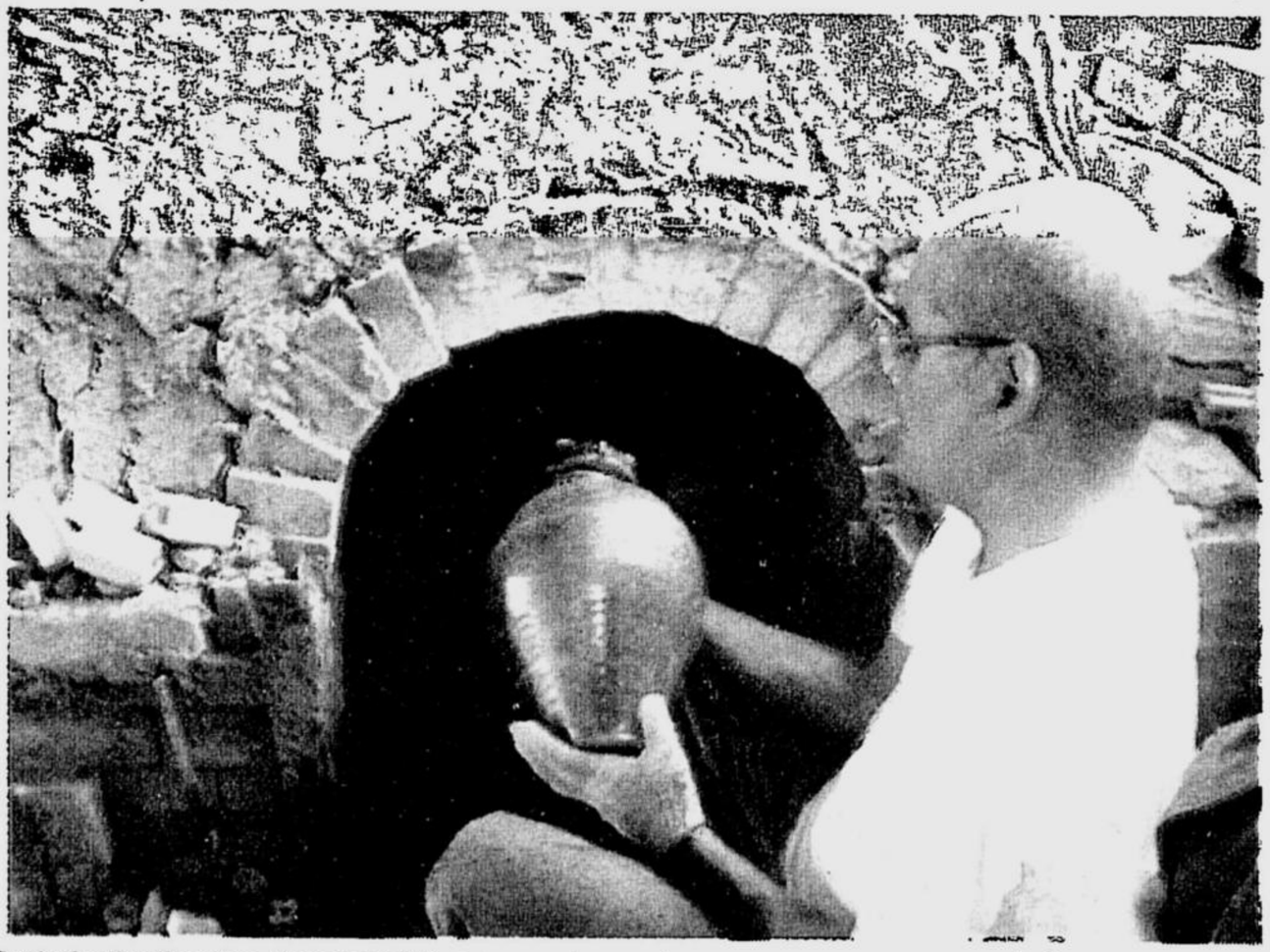
NATURAL IS ALWAYS BETTER, AND THIS APPLIES EVEN TO CERAMIC TECHNOLOGY, OBSERVES POTTERS JON AND TESSY PETTYJOHN, WHOSE NAMES ARE SYNONYMOUS WITH GLAZED POTTERY THAT ARE VIRTUALLY ART PIECES.

The paint-like mixture usually applied to unfired ceramics is no longer good enough, the couple notes. To achieve a natural gloss, potters use wood-fired kilns also known as anagama in Japan. Under extreme heat of up to 2,400 degrees, wood deposits a fine layer of ash on the pottery that gives it an earthy glaze resembling those of stones and shells. Ancient potters from China and Korea have been known to produce similar stoneware using these "dragon" or "snake" kilns some 1500 years ago.

"Wood may not sound environment-friendly in these resource-scarce times," says Jon Pettyjohn, "but it is renewable source unlike fossil fuels." This member of the Philippine Anagama Project adds that local potters using the wood-fed kiln rely on wood harvested from trees downed by typhoons or those discarded during pruning by gardeners or park maintenance staff. They are also actively involved in tree planting and in establishing tree farms, he reveals.

The Anagama Project marks the first collaboration between potters from Japan and the Philippines who were fired by the same desire to produce even better ceramics using age-old techniques. But Anagama pottery requires team work, the group found out, mainly because the process takes as long as a month, with workers stoking the fire round the clock until it achieves the desired 2,400-degree blinding white heat needed to melt the wood ash and fuse it to the pots.

Pettyjohn inspects his handiwork by the kiln



After raising funds mainly from Japan, the potters begun the construction of the kiln, which took about three weeks. Christened "Musang Gama" after a family of civets that live near the kiln site in the foothills of Mt. Makiling, the kiln was blessed by a priest from the nearby Comboni seminary. The Christian rites were followed by Buddhist and Shinto prayers and traditional offerings of rice, fish, fruit and sake. After much anxiety, firing expert Kouji Kondo lit the new kiln, now fueled mostly with agojo pine. Failure was a distinct possibility if the required heat was not reached. To the relief of everyone "and thanks in no small part to the potters' prayers, the kiln reached the right temperature in only 40 hours," recounts Pettyjohn. Since then, Musang Gama has been fired six times and the best results will be on exhibit and sale at the Glorietta in Makati from Nov. 3 to 15.

The project participants whose pottery will be on exhibit are: Pete Cortes, June Teehankee, Boboy Roxas, Juliet Lao, Ritsuko Kikuchi, Gina Consunji, Arlene Ledesma, Popi Laudico, Dedette Bautista, Denise Zayco, Kiko Demetillo, Lorna Belen, Arthur Dizon, Tensie Bello, Setsuko Maeda, Jon Lee, Daniel Viloria, Winnie Go, Yukie Sato Nesbit and Freddie Elizalde Jr.

Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

The Philippine Anagama Project: An Exhibition of Woodfired Stoneware, Nov. 3-15, at the Glorietta Art Space, Gallery Lane, Level 3, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati. For inquiries, call the Pansol Studio Pottery at 729-2980.

Pinoy popsters: (L to R) freelance writer Babeth Lolarga as Valentina; Food fight, Pinoy style with chef Gene Gonzalez; and sculptor Julie Lluch in Tausog make-up

For the Americans, of course, there was no such concept as a better Filipino. A better Filipino could only be a good American.

"The trouble is, by becoming a good American, one could only become a lousy Filipino. If the ideal is to become Western, then everything Filipino becomes second class; our literature is not good enough, our national language is not good enough; even our peso is not good enough, that is why it is stuck forever to the dollar. And we copy and copy and copy. We are the only Westerners in an Asian land.

"For years we were told how incorrect and inconsequential we were. Some Filipinos even think nationalism is a bad word. We have such a broken spirit that we can swallow insults some passing foreigner or brown American can dish out. Too stung to retort, we even print it in our newspapers.

"But what a resilient people we are! What do we do during a flood? Make a business out of it. Put stepping stones and stools so that the better off can get to the other side without getting wet. We stand agape at the technology that progressive countries have mastered, like projecting a giant photographic image on the side of a whole building. But we do not see that one lone Pinoy can paint, by hand, a cinema billboard almost the same size.

"What do foreigners like most about the Philippines? The sunset? The beaches? The hotel accommodations? Certainly not. It's the quality of the deathless friendship they make with Filipinos. The Filipino cares. We are our own best asset. And we don't believe it!

"There are persistent rumors that the Philippines was the old Lemuria, an ancient civilization with a very high spirituality. The island sank into the sea when the inhabitants abused their psychic powers. And we are the descendants of its survivors.

"Maybe it's a fairy tale. What is becoming clear, however, is that the Pinoy will have a role in the coming world scenarios. The diaspora had put Pinoys in every country on earth. It connects somehow to the mission of the race.

"The Filipino could not enter the *sala*, but as the world's best *atsay* (housemaid), she ended up in the bedroom. She has the ear of the mistress who may be a queen. She may be the *yaya* of a prince and princess or a president's children.

"Somehow her foreign wards will imbibe some Filipino values. She rocks them to sleep with sad Pinoy lullabies, she tweaks their ears, teaches them cleanliness and how to be obedient. Once in a while they taste her rice and *tuyo* or hear an *aswang* story. And they will learn to trust in God.

"Somehow it will be different world because the Pinoy was there."

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In Memoriam
by Romulo P. Baquiran Jr.

He was a generous mentor to young poets, imparting invaluable tips on how to set the trajectory of one's poetic vision. But for those who knew him, poet Mike Bigornia was also a compassionate man, a good husband, father, son and friend

Mourning Mike

POET MICHAEL L. BIGORNIA WAS TEXTING FRIENDS FROM HIS FAIRMONT PARK I RESIDENCE IN FAIRVIEW AROUND NOON THAT MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, WHEN HE SUDDENLY FELT SOME CHEST PAINS. HIS WIFE TEK FOUND HIM IN HIS ROOM, CLUTCHING THE CELL PHONE TO HIS CHEST. SHE THOUGHT HE WAS ASLEEP. BUT HE WOULDN'T BUDGE FROM HIS BED. SHE RUSHED HIM TO THE FEU HOSPITAL IN FAIRVIEW WHERE HE WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD ON ARRIVAL AT 2:30 P.M. HE WAS 51.

In that batch mostly composed of young intellectuals from UP, it was Mike Bigornia who became the serious poet

There were precursors to that fatal heart attack. That weekend UP professor Vim Nadera narrated how *Koyang* Mike ignored the pain in the chest and scoffed at the idea of a check up at the nearby Philippine Heart Center. Instead, Mike drove straight to Blind Tiger, a writers' hangout on Visayas Avenue, to have a drink. But he felt a bit tired than usual and asked his drinking buddy, erstwhile protégé and stroke survivor, Roberto Añonuevo, about the anatomy of heart attacks. He said if he were to die, he wanted it to be as painless as possible.

But Tek believes Mike was somehow prepared to meet his God. Last July, he served as exultation leader in one of the community worship services. Mike described the mind-boggling immensity of the universe, but added that the soul can traverse even billions of light years at will to be with the Lord.

What she would miss most, says Tek, are Mike's goodbye kisses; the presence of a good husband and father to five sons and the almost 25 years of living together. In 1974, Tek, then an accounting student, met Mike, a law student at the University of the East. She was a news reporter and he the literary editor of The Dawn, the college paper then considered as groundbreaking as the Philippine Collegian. It was in The Dawn where the critical essays and modernist poems of Virgilio S. Almario, Rogelio Mangahas and Lamberto Antonio first saw print.

Mike (right) always loved the company of friends such as fellow poet Teo Antonio

"*Hindi nanligaw si* Mike. He didn't give me flowers. He just said something like 'Let's start our lives together,'" recounts Tek. It was when they became lovers that the sweet notes, books and poems were lavished on her. She still has "The Little Prince" and the "Jonathan Livingston Seagull" books that Mike gave her. There's something about Mike that made him attractive to Tek. "It must be his style of loving that gives color to my life," she says.

Mike was *suplado* (reticent) while she was an old-fashioned schoolgirl. Mike told her to wear *maong* and t-shirts and together, they'd watch plays and films. She learned a lot from him, especially how to handle life in the city. When Tek introduced her first boyfriend to her parents, they were shocked to see a long-haired, unshaven fellow in dirty jeans and t-shirts. An abominable hippie, an *adik*! As if to confirm her parents' worst fears, their daughter ran off with the hippie in no time.

It turned out that the guy was a good husband and father. In 1977, Mike and Tek wed civilly in June and had a church wedding in November. By the time Paolo, their first son was born, the in-laws had welcomed Mike into the family.

Paolo confirms Mike was a good father. He would accompany his father to literary events, and is known among his father's writer friends as one of the boys. He has become his father's official chauffeur. Now he feels sorry at not being able to fulfill his father's last request to be picked up from Blind Tiger. He opted to join one of the usual *gimiks* of his peers. The youngest son, 10-year-old Chino, appears to have inherited Mike's creativity, and like his father when still a young boy, talks to imaginary friends and believes he has four souls, namely Nudle, Chipo, Tiempo, and of course Chino.

Mike's father, Dr. Domingo B. Bigornia, also wrote poems. In fact, he inspired the writing of "*Sa Alagad ni Hipokrates*," the poet's signature piece which is an appeal to those who are in the medical profession to heal not only the corporeal but moreso the social or man-made ills. Mike was his family's *bunso* (youngest). His mother Matilde M. de Leon doted on him and he easily became a mama's boy.

Mike's literary father, Virgilio S. Almario (aka Rio Alma) says that with the younger poet's demise, he lost one of his staunchest defenders: "He was a loyal friend. He would never betray you." Their friendship goes back to 1973 when Rio read some of Mike's works and he felt talent throbbing in those verses. He wrote a letter, promptly hand-delivered by Teo T. Antonio, inviting Mike to join Galian sa Arte at Tula (GAT), a Marcos-era writers' group that espoused socially committed literature. In that batch mostly composed of young intellectuals from UP, Mike became the serious poet. And to this very day, Rio is proud of Mike's development. The others became scholars, journalists, or critics. Rio groomed Mike to be a literary critic too. Mike could have been a very competent critic but he chose not to internalize the confrontational attitude required of one.

Mike worked for Rio for many years, particularly at Adarna House. Although Almario was a strong literary influence on Mike, the younger poet deliberately broke away from the former's style, most

Happy times: Mike with wife Tek and children

tellingly in "*Prosang Itim,*" where he achieved semiotically staggering prose poems.

During Mike's wake, a traffic jam resulted along Quezon Avenue corner Chuatoco St., as writers, relatives, and friends parked in front of St. Peter's Memorial Chapel. Strangers asked, "*Sino ba yang namatay? Artista ba*?" as they recognized Lukring (Maluh de Guzman)on the premises. If they only knew that Mike was an *artista* (artist), a *makata* in the truest sense of the word, they would have understood the attention . Students of Philippine Literature must have encountered two of his popular poems "*Mga Kanyon*" at "*Sa Alagad ni Hipokrates*" and many of the books he has edited for Phoenix Publishing like "*Ibong Adarna.*"

He was one of the major modernist Filipino poets, with three important books to his name—"*Puntablangko*" (1985), "*Salida*" (UP Press, 1995) and "*Prosang Itim*" (Anvil Publishing, 1995). He was at one time president of GAT and won several literary awards including the Asean Literary Contest, Talaang Ginto and the Palanca Memorial Awards. He was named Poet of the Year in 1986. He was chairman of UMPIL, or Unyon ng mga Manunulat sa Pilipinas (Writers' Union of the Philippines) for three terms from 1992 to 2001, leading the organization's numerous publishing, awarding, and poetry reading activities.

Writers have varied rituals of concentration, quirks indispensable to their creative process. Mike L. Bigornia had his own: make love to his wife. He then went to his writing room, chain-smoked, wrote furiously, and usually didn't bother to eat his meals. Tek was more than supportive of her husband's writing career. She didn't nag Mike when he came home late from his nocturnal adventures. She knows she is the true beloved. Quipped Añonuevo, "*Kawawa naman ang mga asawa natin, tayo may mga* award, *sila wala* (Our poor wives! We have awards and they have none)."

But Tek confirms that her relationship with Mike the writer gave her a sense of fulfillment that no literary award can ever equal. What with the lovable children they had: Paolo, a young father; Miko, a Fine Arts student at UP; Emil, a dentistry major at UP Manila; and Pepe and Chino who are fast growing into young men.

Mike was a generous mentor to Oragon Poets' Circle and LIRA, imparting invaluable tips on how to set the trajectory of one's poetic vision. He said it is the duty of writers to make their works challenging for readers, that writers must not repeat themselves.

His relatives were surprised that he befriended lowly drivers and workers. Employees at SIBS Publishing told Paolo, "*Wala na ang Papa mo, wala nang makikinig sa amin* (Your father is gone. Nobody will listen to us anymore)." Bosom friend and poet Teo relates a story he heard from former Dawn editor Emmanuel Bernabe. One time, the story goes, Mike witnessed how guards harassed a pregnant woman who pilfered from a grocery store. He stopped them and told them that they could file a case against the woman but they should never harm her physically.

In another instance, Mike even attempted to intervene for a more humane treatment of "tree people" manhandled by police raiders in Quezon Avenue. Son Paolo said a beggar on the same road would always come near Mike's car whenever it stopped for the red light, expecting alms from the writer. And Mike never failed to give money to the *suking pulubi* who must now be sorely missing the writer's familiar car. No wonder that during his wake, a number of ordinary people were seen crying—staff members from SIBS Publishing and drivers from Project 2 where Mike grew up.

Those tears were for a man who had a strong sense of justice; those tears were for a compassionate man who was a good son, husband, father and friend.

Poetry

Columbarium

Sa alaala ni Mike L. Bigornia

Salamat at nakarating din tayo rito;
ang nag-iisang pakay: palutang
na mag-abang sa mga yapak natin
na magkakahugis sa mala-alpombra
na pagkakalatag, pagkakahipid ng abo.
Walang dapat ikapangilabot
sa iba pang kakawing na daratal
tulad ng ating iparirnig
na mga halakhak—
magsasalitan hangga't magsalikop
at nakatakdang pumalayo
nang pumalayo; matuling susundan
ng lahat ng inaring katalamitam
at kapag nakulob sa dibdib
ng bawat isa ang "Inutil ang pagtukoy
sa tiyak na kinapadparan,"
himutok ang kanilang ipapangalan
sa mangingibabaw na panghihinayang—
dagli't makahihilam.
Kalabisan na maituturing ngunit ito
ang ating hihintaying lumitaw, umalsa
sa kani-kaniyang balat:
kung masusukat lamang namin
kung gaano kaigting kayong nanabik
na sumaapoy nang nakadilat,
nakagagalak pumikit
nang ilang saglit upang tanggapin
na ang inyong paglisang walang abiso
ay hindi dapat ikalungkot o ikagulat.

Niles Jordan Breis

Huling Halik ng Setyembe

Kay MLB

May dulot na hamog sa mga talulot
buwan ng Setyembe nang hagkang mataos;
ang isang makatang sa ligaya't lungkot
ay kakawit-bisig sa laksang pag-irog.
Ang pagkakataon ay naging maramot
kahit saglit lamang sana'y nakaduop.
Sa kamakata ko, na karugtong-pusod,
karugtong-pangarap sa pakikihamok;
ang katanghalia'y biglang ikinumot
balabal na itim at luhang umagos.

Laksang alitaptap ang umaaligid
bilang mandirigma't kawal ng pag-ibig,
Init na umalab at naglahong init
ang apoy ng kanyang hawak na panitik.
Maraming pangakong kanyang iginuhit
hanggang ang Setyembre'y naglagda ng halik.
Halik na pangwakas na di naititik
ang huling pag-alpas sa kanyang pag-alis.

Kawal ng panitik, binabawi'y buhay
pero kailanma'y hindi mamamatay.
Si Mike L. Bigornia, harayang naiwan
akdang "Puntablangko" na ginunamgunnam
at may "Prosang Itim" na sinapupunan
ng laksang "Salida" nilandas na daan;
ay panandang muhon nitong panitikan
na mananatiling buhay, kailanman.

Teo T. Antonio

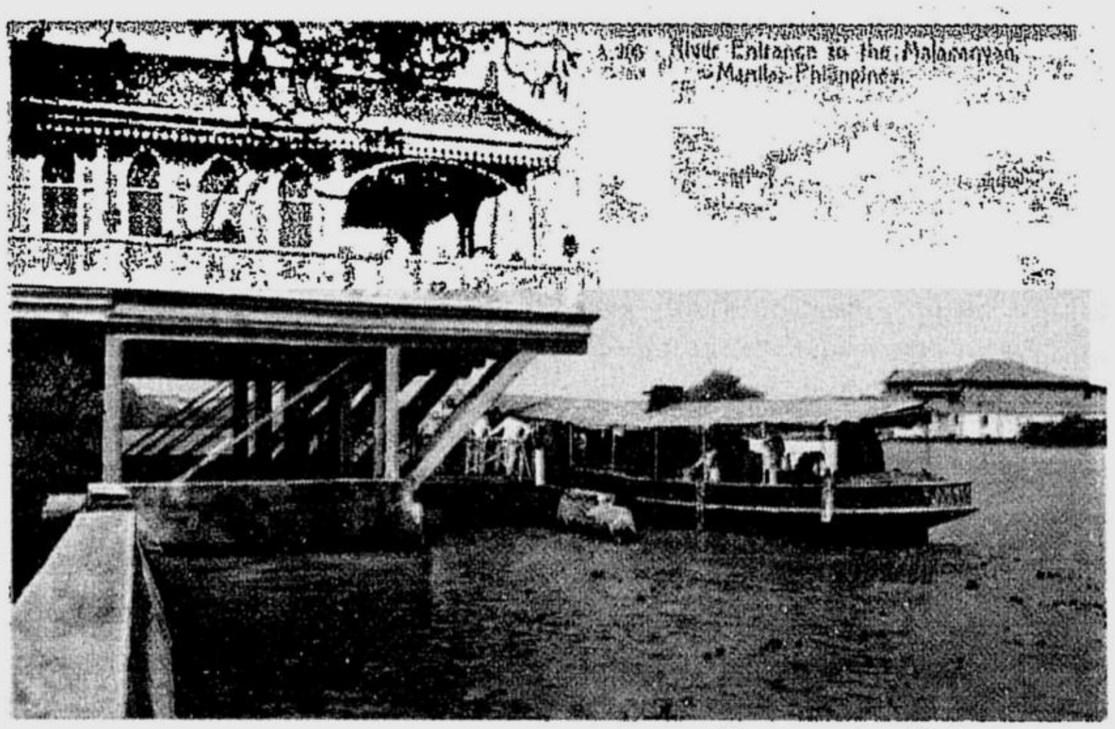
End Page

by Jonathan Best

Preserving Malacañang's Illustrious Past

Like her mother before her, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is personally committed to making Malacañang and its grounds shine as a national showcase once again

SINCE THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, MAJOR CHANGES HAVE TAKEN PLACE AT MALACAÑANG PALACE, AND NOT JUST IN THE POLITICAL SPHERE. THE PALACE ITSELF IS BEING REFURBISHED ALONG WITH THE GROUNDS AND THE ADJACENT STRUCTURES, KALAYAAN BUILDING AND THE GUEST HOUSE. PRESIDENT ARROYO HAS DECIDED TO RESIDE IN THE PALACE WITH HER FAMILY AS SHE DID FROM 1961 TO 1965, DURING HER FATHER PRESIDENT DIOSDADO P. MACAPAGAL'S ADMINISTRATION. THE PALACE HAS NOT BEEN USED AS A RESIDENCE SINCE 1986 WHEN THE EDSA REVOLUTION DROVE OUT THE MARCOSES. DURING THE SUBSEQUENT AQUINO AND RAMOS ADMINISTRATIONS, THE MALACAÑANG HERITAGE FOUNDATION WAS SET UP TO OPEN AND ADMINISTER PART OF THE PALACE AS A PUBLIC MUSEUM AND TO PROMOTE THE HISTORY OF THE SITE AND THAT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL FAMILIES WHO HAD LIVED THERE.



The sun porch and Pasig River landing at Malacañang about 1910.

In 1986, President Corazon Aquino avoided the Palace and its association with the grandiose excesses of the Marcos dictatorship. Some of these excesses were put on public display, the most notorious exhibit being Imelda Marcos' famous shoe collection which numbered in the thousands. President Aquino held office in the Guest House across the driveway from the main entrance and lived down the street in the Arlegui Mansion, as did the Ramoses who succeeded her. President Ramos held office in the Palace and used the public rooms for state functions. The private living quarters he converted into a museum of presidential memorabilia. President Estrada in turn used the public rooms of the Palace but resided in the Guest House and various private mansions around town.

Over the last 150 years Malacañang Palace, its gardens and adjoining buildings, have witnessed innumerable historic events. Spanish governor-generals first vacationed and entertained official guests there in the early 19th century, fishing, hunting and boating on the clear and tranquil waters of the Pasig River. Gov. Rafael de Echague took up permanent residence in Malacañang after the great earthquake of 1863 destroyed the elegant Palacio del Gobernador beside the Manila Cathedral in Intramuros.

In 1901, after the Revolution and Philippine American War, American governor-generals replaced the Spaniards as chief executive authorities. The Americans briefly held revolutionary President Emilio Aguinaldo in Malacañang under house arrest after his capture in 1901. In 1935 the newly established Philippine Commonwealth elected Manuel L. Quezon president and he became the first Filipino chief executive to reside and hold office at Malacañang.

For several generations now Filipino presidents have governed from Malacañang, which also became the scene of festive entertainment and high drama. Governor-generals and presidents have directed the course of Filipino history from this residence and executive seat of power, addressing the nation, issuing decrees and signing laws. Earthquakes have shaken its foundations and typhoons ripped at its walls; bombs and shells have landed on its grounds during wars and insurrections and angry mobs have stormed its gates. Through it all, Malacañang has survived and continues to serve the nation with grace and dignity.

Now that President Arroyo has taken up residence in the Palace, the Malacañang Heritage Museum and Library has had to relocate. An ideal site has been found for this in the Kalayaan Building next door to the Palace, formerly the office of the Press Corps. Kalayaan is a beautiful white stucco two-story building with high ceilings and a tile roof designed in a typically Filipino, neoclassical style. It is from this building's balcony where Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos bade a tearful goodbye to their loyalists in February 1986.

President Arroyo has personally ordered the repainting and repair of the facade of the Kalayaan Building, which had become bedraggled over the years with tangles of telephone wires, overgrown trees and leaking gutters. The heavily partitioned downstairs offices are currently being gutted and will be restored to their former elegance. Like her mother before her, the President is personally committed to making Malacañang and its grounds shine as a national showcase once again.

Just like President Ramon Magsaysay, the President hás expressed her desire to once again open to the public the grounds of Malacañang. Hailing the same gesture 45 years ago, Magsaysay's successor, President Carlos P. Garcia said: "To the common man, especially the needy, the forsaken and victims of injustice, Malacañang symbolized hope, faith and justice."

The Malacañang Heritage Foundation will open its new quarters this month with a temporary exhibit of vintage photographs depicting life in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and a sampling of presidential photographic memorabilia. Informative and inspiring historical exhibitions and a presidential library would stimulate national pride and encourage an active participation in governance by the Filipino people.

Comments welcome at<endpage2000@hotmail.com>

SURVIVORS'...from page 4

With erstwhile songwriting partner Eric Gancio: "Mas masaya ako pag nagsusulat"

"*Para akong nasa* dungeon," he recalls. "*Hindi ako nakakita ng araw ng limang taon.*"

In the early weeks and months of his self-imposed exile from the world, Abay says he underwent a kind of spiritual crisis, in which he wrestled with a "faceless god," death, the devil. Many people at one time or another in their life ask themselves the Big Questions: who am I, what am I, what's the point of all this? But most of them manage to function in everyday reality while doing so. For someone in the clutches of deep depression, however, such soul searching can be torture.

"*Mayroon akong* suicidal tendencies," Abay admits. "*Hindi ako* violent *sa ibang tao*, violent *ako sa sarili. Nag*-attempt *ako – maraming beses – pero hindi ako nagtatagumpay. Siguro may* reason *pa rin ako, kasi* irrational *'yon.*"

Abay started to sleep through most of the day, sleeping 19, 20 hours each day.

"My life started to revolve around sleeping and dreaming," he says. Strangely enough, he notes, in his dreams he was normal.

"*Buhay ako sa panaginip ko. Nakakalabas ako, nakakalangoy, nakakalipad. Paggising ko, patay na naman ako* (I was alive in my dreams—I could go out, swim, fly. But I was dead whenever I was awake)."

Months passed, and then years. In his darkened room, Abay had lost track of time: he had no idea what time it was, what day, or even what year.

Throughout his experience, Abay held on to one lifeline: writing. Although he had to be forced to eat, and left his room only to use the toilet, he kept scribbling. The dark thoughts in his head spilled onto the page.

These early writings he now considers "too dark, too grim" for public consumption. After months and years, however, his writings began to take shape as stories and poems. A Philippine Studies major at the University of the Philippines, Abay even began to consider becoming a novelist and writing a historical novel, if only to leave some kind of legacy when he made his final exit.

Music had long ceased to matter. But at some point, Abay found himself turning on the radio, just to hear something.

Eventually, he started listening to music again, at first classical music, and then digging out old tapes of rock 'n' roll. He knew he was still in the grip of depression, but perhaps some kind of healing process had begun.

One day, recalls Abay, while he was writing, a young nephew asked him what he was doing. "*Hindi ba* singer *ka? Sabi ko hindi.* Writer. *Biglang may bumbilya na umilaw: oo nga,* songwriter *nga pala ako.*"

He began to realize that the poems and stories he had been writing were actually songs-in-progress, waiting to be set to music.

And he found that he wanted to make music again.

Much to Badiang's surprise, he received a phone call from the long-lost Abay last May, asking if he could borrow a guitar. In the following weeks, the pair began to put Abay's words to music. The songs started to flow, a trickle at first, and then a steady stream of words and music. In a matter of months, he had written enough songs for three albums. Abay calls this work-in-progress "*Parnaso ng Payaso,*" and envisions it to be a trilogy.

"*Na-*realize *ko na mas masaya ako pag nagsusulat ako,*" says Abay. "*Nae-*enjoy *ko na ang paggawa ng kanta. Nawala na ang takot ko. Pakiramdam ko mayroon akong patutunayan sa aking sarili at sa ibang tao. Doon ako nagkaroon ng* security."

Just a few months ago, a recovered Dong Abay ventured out into the sunlight after nearly five years in the darkness. (On the bright side, he has absolutely no recollection of the Estrada presidency.)

Among the first things he did was to re-establish contact with old friends such as Marcus Adoro of the Eraserheads and singer Jess Santiago. Soon he felt well enough to move out of his parents' home.

Not long after he and Onie Badiang were in a studio, recording demos of his songs. For the past few weeks, the pair have been recording a few of the tracks in what will eventually be the first installment of "*Parnaso ng Payaso.*"

"*Magugulat ang mga nakakakilala sa* Yano," he says. "*Wala na ang* angst *ko. Wala na ang* 'f**k you' attitude. *Hindi ko na pinapalapit ang mundo – ako na mismo ang lumalapit.*"

A cursory listen to a cassette of Abay's demos offers reassurance that he is, indeed, back among the living. On the whole, the tone of the music is mellower. There is even a love song or two, although traces of the old sardonic wit are still there.

Among the first questions that Abay is invariably asked is whether a Yano reunion is in the offing. He says that Yano, like his lost years, belongs in the past. He is looking toward the future.

This Week

Art

Contradictions, a solo exhibit by Lamberto Hechanova until today at the Galleria Duemila, 4/L, SM Megamall Bldg. A.

Recent Prints, a print series by Ofelia Gelvezon-Tequi at The Drawing Room, Metrostar Bldg., 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City until Nov. 7.

Les Bohemes, a two-man show by Gino Carlo Tioseco and Gene Gonzalez at Ad-Infinitum Galleries, 190 F. Blumentritt St., San Juan, Metro Manila until Nov. 12.

New Prints, an exhibit of rubbercut prints in black and white at The Drawing Room, Metrostar Bldg., Metropolitan Ave., Makati City until Nov. 7.

The New Voice Company appears in "Revolutionary Hearts" at the Republic of Malate

Benign Positional Vertigo, an exhibit of drawings taking on the subject of desire and affection by Maria Taniguchi, until Nov. 12 at Green Papaya Art Projects, Unit 304 Sterten Place Condominium, 116 Maginhawa St., Teacher's Village, Diliman, QC.

Art Tile, an exhibit of hand-painted ceramic tiles by Bart Aguas at the West Gallery, 3/L, Glorietta 4, Makati City until Nov. 13.

Small Works After Spontaneous Combustions, an exhibit of abstracts by Brian Sergio, until Nov. 12 at the Green Papaya, 116 Maginhawa St., Teacher's Village, QC.

Permanent Collection features the works of National Artists Jose Abueva, Botong Francisco, Fernando Amorsolo, Vicente Manansala and H.R. Ocampo together with a dozen contemporary Filipino artists ongoing at the GSIS Museum of Art, GSIS Building, Financial Center, Pasay City.

Uma: Rural Images, a photograph exhibit by Mike Alquinto, Alex Baluyut, Jimmy A. Domingo, Gil Nartea, Raymond Panaligan and Nico G. Sepe, until Nov. 16 at the Blind Tiger Bar and Gallery, 13 Visayas Ave., QC. For details, call 928-1158.

Onstage

Trumpets presents **Fables and Parables** at the Cinema 1, 6th Level, Shangri-La Plaza Mall on Nov. 17 and 18 at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Tickets priced at P150. Seating is on a first-come first-served basis only. For inquiries, call 633-5010 or 633-4387.

One Hundred Songs of Mary Helen Fee, a monologue written by playwright Tony Perez based on his translation of portions of "A Woman's Impressions of the Philippines" by Mary Fee, an American educator in the Philippines in the first decade of the 20th century. Regular performances will be on Nov. 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24 and 25 at the CCP Tanghalang Huseng Batute. For inquiries, call 832-1125 loc. 1620 or 896-4601.

Journey to Damascus, August Strindberg's expressionistic drama on guilt, remorse and spiritual restitution, will hold special performances on Nov. 10 at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the GSIS Theater, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. For details, call 412-0617 and 722-4205.

Revolutionary Hearts, a concert with social theatrical and musical commentary exploring issues such as poverty, violence against women, colonialism, discrimination, globalization and imperialism topbilled by the New Voice Company resident actors, goes on stage at the Republic of Malate, Nov. 9 and 10 at 9 p.m. For tickets, call 896-6695 and 896-5497.

Cinema

The 3rd Israeli Film Festival will be held on Nov. 9-11 at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Nov. 15-17 at the UP Film Center, and Nov. 27-28 at the Ayala Center Cebu. Featured films are "Under the Domim Tree," "As Tears Go By," "Song of the Siren," "Love Inventory," "Mrs. Vs. Miss" and short student films.

The **Titus Brandsma Center** in New Manila, QC will screen the following movies on Nov. 10 starting at 1:30 p.m.: "301, 302" (Korea, 1995); "The Mystery of Rampo" (Japan, 1994); "Ju Dou" (China, 1989). Some works of Filipino filmmaker Peter Chua will also be shown. Admission is free. For details, call 721-8677.

Atbp

ProActive Center for Training will hold a **Managing a Catering Business Seminar-Workshop** on Nov. 5-14 at Café Astoria at the lobby of Astoria Plaza, J. Escriva Drive (formerly Amber Drive), Ortigas Center, Pasig from 1-5 p.m. For reservations, call 878-5231 and 823-4947.

De La Salle University's Literature Circle holds **poetry readings** every Friday night, 6-8 p.m. at the Coffee Brewery, 2/F Madison Square Bldg. Taft Ave., Malate (beside DLSU-CSB). Admission is free. For details, call 0919-5877791.

The Philippine Board on Books for Young People announces that one set of the **2000 IBBY Honor List,** a biennial selection of the world's best children books, is now permanently in the country and available for viewing at the International School of Manila. The books will also be available for viewing at the Children's Library in Robinsons Galleria on December. For inquiries, call 372-3548 or 49.

Discover which values, paradigms, attitudes and behaviors create your success and go on a journey of self-discovery through the **Foundations of Leadership EXcellence seminar** by Organizational Change Consultants International Inc., Nov. 10-11 at the Yuchengco Institute of Advanced Studies, RCBC Plaza Tower 2. For details, call 897-5219/897-7856 or e-mail at erquinto@vasia.com.

Join the three-day **Self-Transformation Seminar** conducted by the Theosophical Society featuring self-mastery and development; awakening of one's higher potential; handling fear, stress, resentment; developing effective relationships and self-awareness; conquering bad habits and behavior; understanding love and caring. For details, call 741-5740 and 743-1181.

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts announces that the deadline for **Timpalak Teatro Bulawan 2001** and the NCCA Epic Playwriting Competition 2001 has been moved to Nov. 30. Entries will be accepted by the contest secretariat until 12 midnight of Nov. 30. Fax and email submissions will not be entertained. For details, call 527-2192 local 603 or visit website www.ncca.gov.ph.

The Effie Nañas School of Classical Ballet presents **The Gift of Christmas.** The show highlights excerpts from "The Nutcracker" and specially choreographed Christmas numbers to be held at the Grand Atrium of the Edsa Shangri-La Plaza Mall at 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 16, and at the Enchanted Kingdom at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Dec. 22. For inquiries, call 633-7871.

The Japan Foundation Manila Office in cooperation with the Yuchengco Center for East Asia (De La Salle University System) will hold the second reunion of the **Japan Foundation Fellows Alumni Association** on Dec. 8, 4 p.m. at the Marilen Gaerlan Conservatory of the De La Salle University. This year's theme is Revitalizing Cultural Exchange in the New Millennium. For details, call 811-6155 to 58.

The French Baker, the authority in European and French bakery products, recently opened its 24th branch at SM Supercenter in Sucat. The other recently opened stores include SM Cubao, SM Pampanga, Pioneer Center in Mandaluyong and Landmark Bridgeway in Makati.

Publishers are invited to join **Unesco's Prize for Children's and Young People's Literature in the Service of Tolerance.** The prize is given every two years in recognition of works of fiction for the young that best embody the concepts and ideals of tolerance and peace, and promote mutual understanding based on respect for other people and cultures. Works may be novels, collections of short stories and illustrated picture books falling under two age categories: books for children 1-12 and for young people 13-18. Entries should be books published in 2000-2001. Only publishers are eligible to join the contest through the National Commission for Unesco in their countries. Deadline is on Jan. 31, 2002. For details, visit website www.unesco.org/culture/toleranceliterature or email m.bulos@unesco.org.

The Southridge School for Boys Class 2010 will hold a **Christmas bazaar** today from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City. Lots of unique and bargain items for sale.

A Gift of Nature: A Water Celebration, a one-day water festival on Nov. 11 at the Orchidarium and Butterfly Pavilion, Rizal Park that includes interactive lectures and experiments, exhibits and games that will give participants holistic knowledge about water, its properties, proper use and conservation. Entrance fee is P100/adult and P60/child. For inquiries, call 527-6378/79 or 899-6550.

X-manila

The Arts Council of Iloilo Foundation Inc. will present Giacomo Puccini's **Madame Butterfly,** a full-length opera featuring Koro. Opens Nov. 15 at CAP Auditorium, Iloilo City. For tickets, call (033) 337 0204.

The Servants of the Holy Spirit Catholic Community invites married couples to a **Marriage Encounter Weekend Seminar** on Nov. 9-11 at the Jubilee Center, La Salette Shrine, Silang, Cavite. The seminar aims to revitalize the interpersonal growth of the couples toward each other and toward God, and rediscover the meaning of their marriage. For details, call 926-3002 or 853-0110.

Aklat ng Bayang **Bulacan** by Mariano T. Santos, a publication that chronicles the history of the town of Bulacan, Bulacan, will be launched on Nov. 10, 2 p.m. at the Del Pilar Museum and Library in San Nicolas, Bulacan, Bulacan. For details, call (044) 792-0344.

Oyster Fest at Island Cove, a culinary event featuring new and delectable oyster dishes until Nov. 15 at Island Cove Resort and Leisure Park in Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite. Must-try are Golden Parmesan Oysters, Tri-Color Oyster Salad, Oysters Mornay, Triple-T Oysters, Oysters Provencal, Oysters & Seafood Jardienere, and Island Cove's pride, Oysters a la Cove. Get a free glass of either white wine, SMB or iced tea for every oyster dish you order. Call (046) 434-0210 or (02) 810-3740.

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.